YOUTH ALIVE UGANDA

YOUTH ALIVE
IT'S TIME TO ACT

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AGYW	Adolescent Girls and Young Women
ANC	Antenatal Care
APN	Assisted Partner Notification
ART	Anti-Retroviral Therapy
AYG	Adolescent Youth & Gender
CPAs	Core Program Areas
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
DBTs	District Based Trainers
EAYIP	East African Youth Inclusion Program
EFL	Education For Life
FP	Family Planning
HMIS	Health Management Information System
MCH	Maternal and Child Health
NFE	Non Formal Education
OVCs	Vulnerable Children
PHC	Primary Health Care
PLHIV	People Living With HIV
SGBV	Sexual & Gender Based Violence
SHG	Self Help Group
SRHR	Sexual Reproductive Health Rights
STD	Sexually Transmitted Diseases
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infection
VHTs	Village Health Teams
VL	Viral Load
VMMC	Voluntary Safe Male Medical Circumcision
VSLA	Village Savings and Loans Associations
YAU	Youth Alive Uganda
YFS	Youth Friendly Services

MESSAGE FROM
THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Despite the changes and challenges presented by 2019; it also availed opportunities for growth, re-strategizing and rejuvenation. Youth Alive Uganda remained committed to her mandate of keeping young people alive, healthy and productive in the social-economic sphere. In this report, we share highlights of our improved integrated and multi-sectoral service delivery for the youth utilizing our Wrap-around and Positive Youth Development approaches that sought to engage children and young people within their communities, schools, peer groups and families in building their skills, assets, competencies, fostering healthy relationships and above all supported them to start and sustain their own enterprises as a way of attaining economic freedom. 2019 also saw Youth Alive Uganda scale her operations to Rhino refuge settlement in North West Uganda which was a huge opportunity to contribute to the skilling of young people in the settlement and in the host communities. Youth unemployment, poverty and unmet Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights needs continue to surge and given that these are inter-related, our implementation approach in 2019 was integrated and multi-sectoral and aimed at maximizing SRHR and workforce development outcomes for young people.

Appreciation goes to Board members and staff of Youth Alive Uganda, Government of Uganda, development partners, district structures, and all implementing partners whose contributions and support have greatly contributed to the continued existence of Youth Alive Uganda and for all the achievements in 2019

Thank you

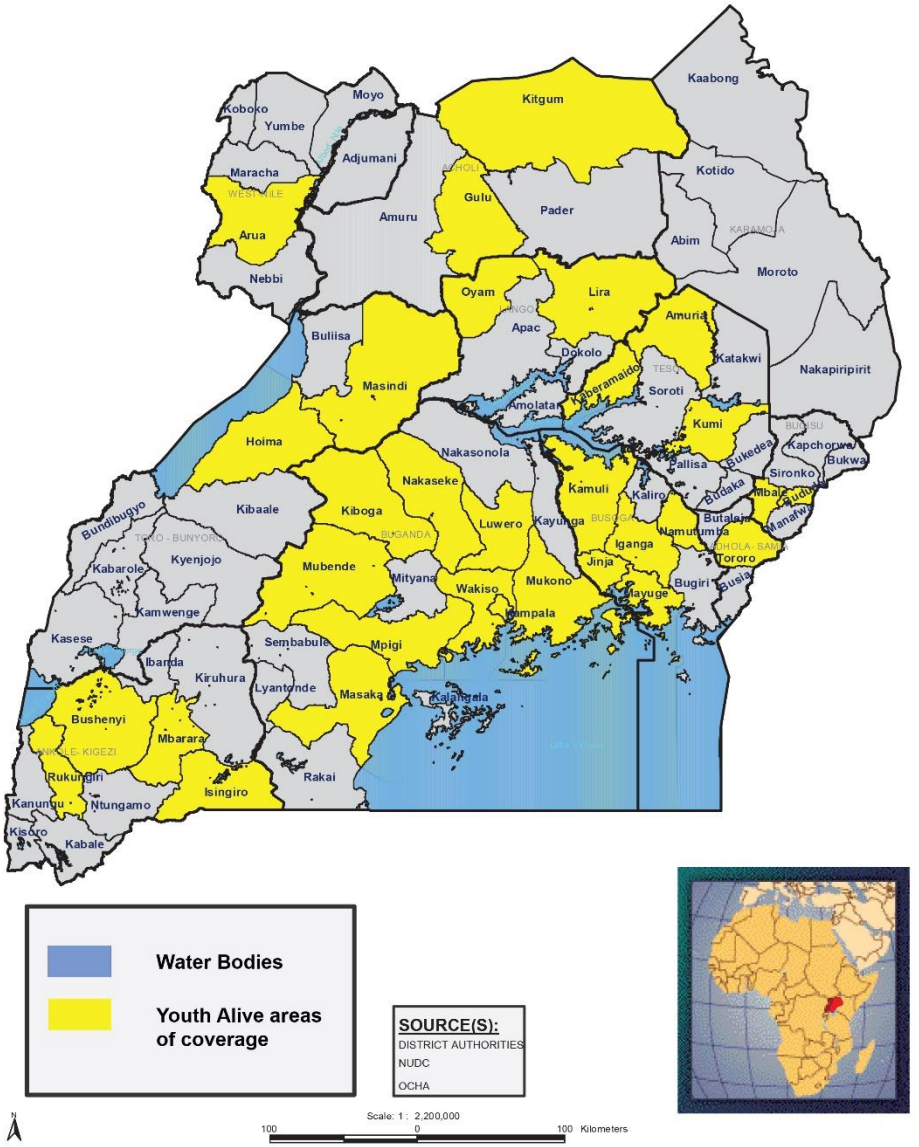
OUR COVERAGE

Eastern Region: Jinja, Kamuli, Bugiri, Mayuge, Mbale, Tororo, Iganga, Amuria, Ngora, Busia, Buyende, Kaliro, Luuka, Namayingo, Namutumba

Northern Region: Gulu, Omoro, Lira, Kitgum, Arua, Oyam, Apac, Dokolo, Kole, Agago

Central region: Wakiso, Kiboga, Luwero, Kampala, Nakaseke, Mubende, Masaka, Mpigi, Mukono

Western Region: Ishaka, Bushenyi, Masindi, Kiryandongo, Mbarara, Mitooma, Rukungiri, Isingiro, Sheema, Kiruhura



ABOUT
YOUTH ALIVE UGANDA

Youth Alive Uganda is a national youth focused NGO that implements integrated children and youth development programs across Uganda.

Youth Alive envisions young people living life to the full through implementing interventions that enhance their abilities and opportunities to live healthy and proactive lifestyles.

VISION: "Youth living life to the full."

MISSION: To work with and through children, adolescents and young adults (7-35) to lead healthy and proactive life styles.

GOAL: Enhanced abilities and opportunities of children, adolescents and young adults for integral development.

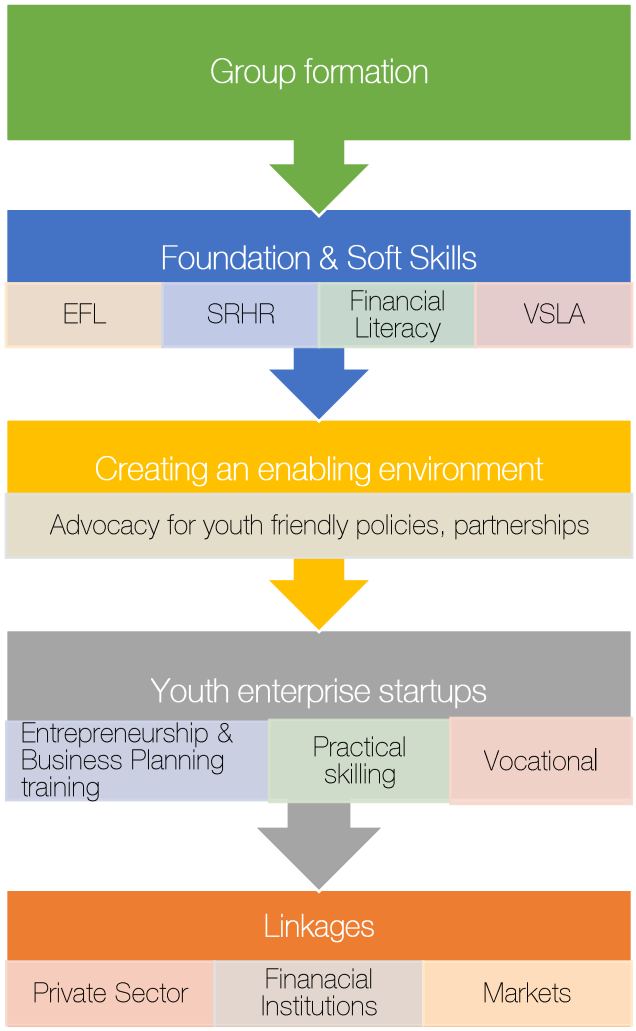
Core values

- Respect for life
- Exemplary life styles
- Determination and Commitment
- Transparency, Accountability and Responsibility

Organizational objectives

- Enhanced abilities and opportunities of children, youth and young adults for integral development
- Enhanced and maintained competence of Youth Alive's workforce for the accomplishment of the mission
- Optimal and sustainable governance and management systems maintained within an evolving framework of national and global partnerships
- Key corporate information and consistence availed to ensure quality and consistence in service delivery that complies with stakeholder requirements.

Group Based Approach Pathway



OUR APPROACH

Group Based Model

YAU believes that social relationships are instrumental in determining young people's behavior and therefore capable of determining the nature of our work and sustainability of programs. Over the years, YAU has worked with youth in groups called Youth Alive Clubs (YAC) composed of 25-40 members, both males and females except for single sex clubs. In different projects, these clubs have taken on different names; Youth Associations under YETA, Self Help Groups under EAYIP, Teenage Mothers Club, Adolescent Girls and Young Women Clubs and Young people and Adolescent Peer Supporters (YAPS) under RHITES EC.

Through the leadership structures of local government, opinion leaders, cultural and religious leaders, and young people are mobilized into groups, a group constitution is formed and approved by members. Leaders are elected democratically in consideration of gender balance, and groups registered with respective sub-counties. The groups conduct regular meetings (often weekly) and engage in activities like VSLA, MDD, games and sports, trainings and community activities like cleaning water sources, markets and roads.

YAU has found it more effective and sustainable to work with youth in groups. The social capital as a result of working together ensures that YAC members are socially accountable to each other, as a result, members can borrow money from the group without collateral; peer to peer learning through group incubation businesses and positive peer pressure have facilitated individual group members to start their own businesses; and most clubs have become autonomous after graduation, making them able to continue their group activities beyond project life span.

Education for Life Model

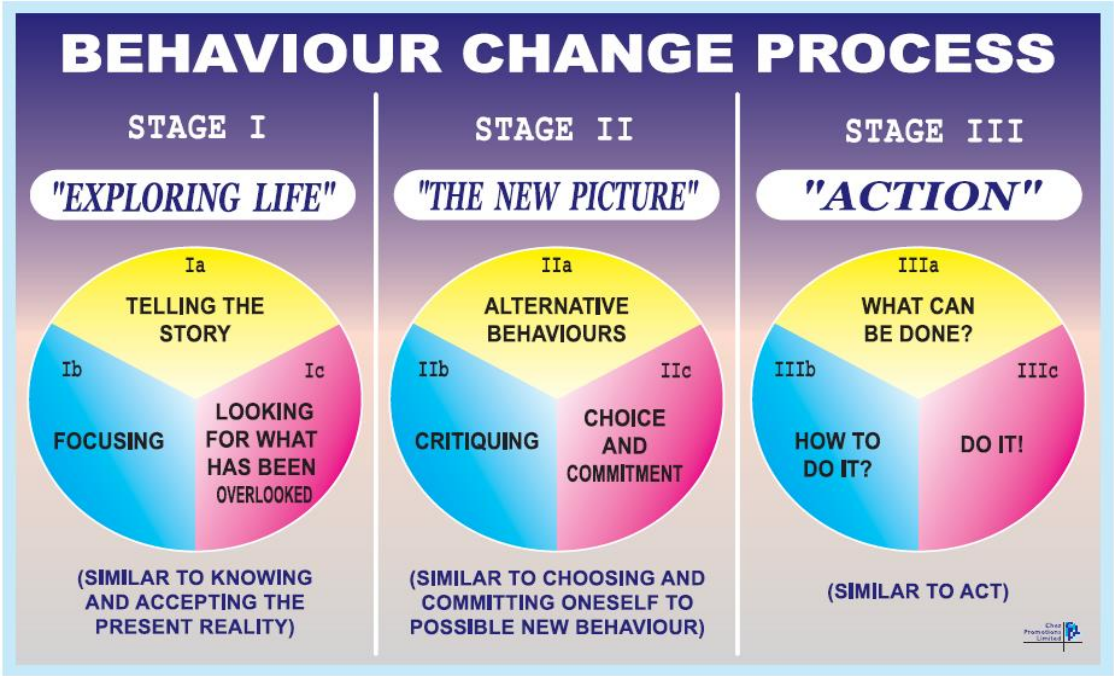
This is a program designed for uses with youth clubs to enable them create clear purpose and sense of direction in life. Depending on the age and experience of the individuals in the group, it aims at either reinforcing present youth ***"productive"*** behavior and skills or bringing about a change in behavior and skills. In either case, it is the individuals in the groups who choose the appropriate course of action/behavior and then commit themselves to it. YAU role is to facilitate the process of a group/individual knowing and accepting the current reality, identifying and choosing alternative behavior and taking action towards the new direction.

The process is based on the "helping skills" model of Gerard Egan (Egan, Gerard, "The Skilled Helper", Brooks/Cole Publishing Company, Monterey, California, 1986.), a behavioral and problem-solving model. This was chosen because youth development needs behavior change in most cases and this is not easy to achieve. It does not happen simply by giving people information about preferred topics.

This EFL process is designed to facilitate a person's movement through the various stages of behavior change and life skills development: identifying the problem, choosing goals, and planning action. This model is used to help individuals examine their lives in terms of skills and behavior, determine what behavior is safe and productive for them, which skills are necessary and then commit themselves to action. The group support helps in clarifying the problem and increasing commitment.

Soft Skills

The Soft Skills training aims to build a holistic suite of interpersonal and life skills for youth participants, laying a foundation for making healthy choices and building technical and enterprising skills. During this training, participants have an opportunity to explore and develop key life skills, including positive communication, self-awareness, managing interpersonal relationships, sexual reproductive health, and goal setting. Conclusively, participants are selected for the training based on their willingness to learn and their interest in agriculture and entrepreneurship. Therefore, curriculum includes sessions that you can lead to help youth develop their knowledge, skills, and attitudes related to soft skills. The sessions in this curriculum help encourage discussion among participants while adding new knowledge and providing participants with opportunities to apply fresh concepts



Enabling environment

In a bid to facilitate enabling environment among the various youth interventions, YAU builds capacity of young people to advocate for inclusive service delivery in the health, agricultural and financial thematic areas. Youth conduct sports galas, drama skits with themes aimed to send a message to community and policy makers as they advocate for services. For instance advocacy on youth inclusion in planning and budgeting processes, girls' involvement in agriculture, youth inclusion in service delivery, youth access to land among others.

Linkages

To increase youth access to reproductive health, financial and education services, YAU implements multiple integrated strategies including building community support for youth friendly services, providing technical assistance to service providers strengthening referral partnerships between YAU and service delivery points and building capacity of youth to demand for services.

Linkage to SRHR Services; YAU works with partner public and private health facilities to provide youth friendly services. Routine capacity building and mentorship for health workforce to provide youth friendly services is done.

Linkage to Education Services: YAC members who identified need for particular training through visioning exercise as necessary to achieve their vision are linked to either vocational training institutes or local master crafts persons for formal or informal training. Orphans and vulnerable children, especially girls are re-enrolled in schools through education subsidies.

Linkage to Financial services: Primary access to finance is through VSLAs that are linked to banks for safety of group incomes. YACs that cannot start and sustain own VSLA are linked to saving groups within their community. YACs use social capital as collateral to access youth friendly credit from financial institutions.

Peer-led Approach

YAU believes in a decentralized mechanism for service delivery and key to achieving this is the peer-led model. The model has been found to be effective in promoting healthy behaviors amongst youth and an effective method of providing training programs. Youth Alive interprets peer-led programming as the practice of sharing program training content, services, information, values and behaviors between individuals with shared characteristics. Often this involves the delivery of part or all of an intervention by people in the same age bracket as intended beneficiaries in a safe space as part of the normal communication and interventions within social groups.

Most YAU projects are designed in a way that peer educators are the final delivery structure to the Youth Alive Clubs. Their capacity is built on how to deliver the training content as well as facilitate linkages to core youth services including education, finance, and livelihood opportunities, distribute non-clinical health commodities and refer young people for services to health facilities.

YAU has employed peer-led model with significant success in programs involving substance users, key populations, youth involved in risky sexual behavior, HIV prevention and psychosocial wellbeing among young people. Further, young people are open to sharing ideas with their peers as they provide a safe space for interaction and problem solving particularly SRH issues.

THEMATIC PROGRAM AREAS

YOUTH HEALTH

Youth Alive vision is to support young people to live their lives to the full. For young people to be able to achieve their dreams and ambitions, they must remain alive, healthy and productive. That is why at Youth Alive Uganda, youth health is an integral part of our programming most especially Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR). To achieve this, our focus is to increase access & utilization of Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) information and services, HIV&AIDS and Primary Health Care (PHC) for the young people. Access to SRHR information and services among young people (10-24 years) is currently a challenge especially for teenage girls. This has caused an increasing need for provision of Youth Friendly Services (YFS) by the various service providers. To fill this gap, we partner with health service providers to implement comprehensive and youth friendly SRHR services that include; sexuality education, family planning, STI/STD management including HIV/AIDS, male medical circumcision, and prevention of SGBV. This is also done using peer led approach as well as through youth friendly corners(YFCs) and Community Drop in Centers (DICs) to make SRHR services accessible and youth friendly.

YOUTH LIVELIHOODS

In Uganda today, about 77% of the population are children and youth (State of the youth report 2016/2017) and youth unemployment stands at 2.73% (Youth report 2019). Youth Alive in a bid to holistically address the needs of Vulnerable young people focuses on six Core Program Areas (CPAs) including; Economic strengthening, Health, Food and Nutrition security, Education, Psycho social support, and Child protection and legal support. By doing so, we believe we will strongly contribute to the improved well-being of children and youth orphaned and made vulnerable by HIV& AIDS and other adversities in Uganda. Youth Alive also contributes to the realization of a society where Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVCs) live to their full potential and their rights and aspirations are fulfilled. Our strategies include: Economically empowering OVCs and their caregivers; improving their nutrition and food security; increasing their enrollment and retention in school; improving their access to psycho-social support; and providing a supportive mechanism for the protection of OVCs.

Keeping the youth economically alive demands that the youth are at the forefront of championing entrepreneurship and other economic activities especially agribusiness that is the backbone of Uganda's economy. Youth Alive Uganda aims at increasing incomes of youths working in agriculture and other enterprises through innovative and technical approaches. This approach targets the entire agriculture value chain and the strong partnerships that we foster with youth farmers, youth associations, industry, and governments focusing on agribusiness and enterprise development. Key aspects include mobilization of youth and formation of youth cooperatives, business incubation and management, financial literacy trainings, micro franchising opportunities and access to finance and markets. Youth Alive's ultimate aim is to increase youth income, increase youth employment and reduce poverty. Through its strong partnership base and linkages with both public & private sector actors, Youth Alive equips youth with technical & vocational skills aimed at creating or getting employment opportunities with the ultimate purpose of increasing the incomes of the youth. These are achieved through both formal and Non Formal Education (NFE). The formal education involves working with technical & vocational institutions while the NFE involves both local artisans program and apprenticeships & placements.

HUMAN RIGHTS AND JUSTICE

We aim to improve promotion and protection of human rights for and by the young people especially the poor and marginalized. Our approach is to work with all the stake holders to create rights awareness among children and their caregivers in addition to providing a favorable environment that minimizes risk of child abuse. Through human rights education, we improve civic consciousness, competence of the children and youth so that they can claim their rights. Also through advocacy & strengthening local institutions, we engage duty bearers to fulfill the rights of children & youth. Gender equality is another key component of rights for children & youth. We contribute to the change of values, attitudes and beliefs of young people towards gender equality and women's rights. In the same way we aim to increase male involvement in promoting gender equality and prevention of Sexual & Gender Based Violence (SGBV).

Figure 1: YAU staff matching during the 16 days of activism

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AND MENTORSHIP

Only 37% of Ugandan employers are satisfied with Uganda's graduates because they (graduates) don't have practical hands-on and work readiness skills to adapt easily in the work world (2014 Inter-University Council of East Africa Report). Furthermore, the 2016/2017 UNHS revealed that 48.2% of school going age children had dropped out of school. These too do not have required work-readiness and technical skills needed to acquire a job.

Youth Alive Uganda is conscious of the above facts and her skills development programs are a part of initiatives to support young people access and retain descent employment opportunities. The organization specifically focuses on;

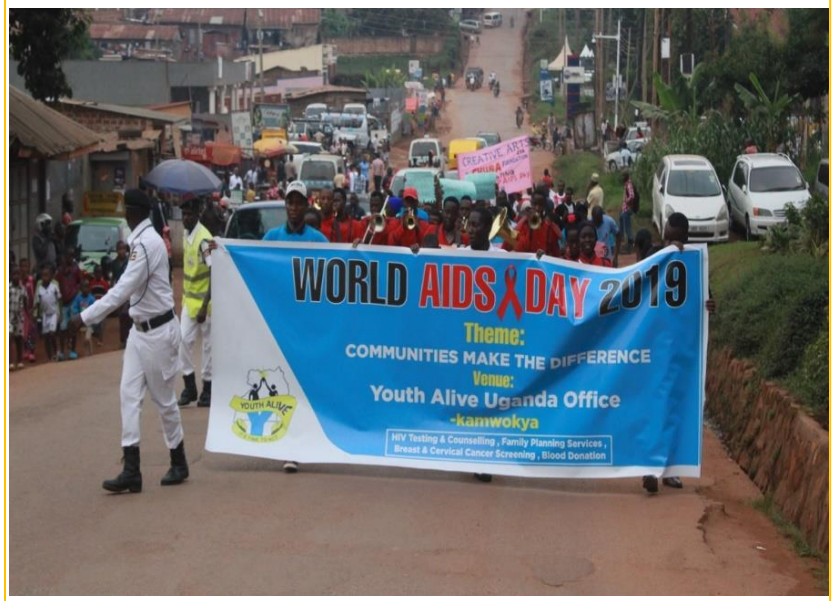
a) Training and mentoring young people in work-readiness/life skills.
b) Training and mentoring young people in technical/vocational skills and supporting them through the certification process with DIT.
c) Providing young people with opportunities for hands-on experience and mentorship through placements and internships.
d) Supporting young people to access employment through business start-ups and linkages to formal employment.

Figure 2: Trainers pose with pupils of Kireka Army Primary School after an EFL session.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

2019

- ✓ Health Programs
- ✓ Livelihood Programs
- ✓ Skills Development And Mentorship
- ✓ Human Rights And Civic Engagement
- ✓ Human Resource
- ✓ Youth Voices
- ✓ Success Stories



HEALTH PROGRAMS

Integrated SRHR outreaches: In a bid to provide SRHR services to the vulnerable communities, key populations (sex workers, trackers, young people, slum dwellers), integrated outreaches and moonlights comprising all SRHR services including health education, HIV Testing and counseling, screening for Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) and Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGBV), Voluntary Safe Male Medical Circumcision (VMMC), family planning services were provided. The strategy ensures services are taken closer to the people and all those tested and found HIV positive are linked into care while others are referred to the health facilities. These services are coordinated through peers, Village Health Teams (VHTs) and health workers in the surrounding health facilities. Selection of villages and hot spots where outreaches are conducted is done based on available data from the Health Management Information System (HMIS) which shows areas with specific health needs. Over 245 integrated outreaches were conducted reaching out to over 80,000 people and 85% of those who tested positive for HIV were initiated on ART immediately. This practice has been observed by health workers as key in reducing spread of HIV and reducing follow ups for newly positive clients to come for their first set of treatment.

Figure 3: A youth receiving HCT

Training on commodity forecasting & supply management: In a bid to strengthen the service provision by the health facilities, 45 health workers were oriented on how to monitor stock outs to ensure timely requisition of essential medicines in time. This was done after observing that on many occasions' essential drugs for STIs, HIV testing kits, family planning, VMMC kits were limited at health facilities. As a result, 65% of the facilities were did not face stock outs for more than 30 days in the past 6 months, a sign that the training yielded results.

Orientation of health workers on SRHR: In a bid to strengthen service delivery to the key and vulnerable populations, 130 health workers in the supported health facilities were coached on provision of SRHR to the target beneficiaries. One of the challenges that young people and key populations face in accessing SRHR services is the fear to be judged and negative attitude of health workers at the facilities. With this coaching, health workers now have a positive attitude towards the beneficiaries and are more receptive to provide them with services hence the increase observed in access and utilization of SRHR services among the target population.

Figure 4: SRHR peers in Nakaseke district

Sports for Health: The Sports for Health Curriculum is a strategy Youth Alive uses to reach out to young people through sports like netball, soccer volleyball, board games among others. Peers, health champions, health workers identify health information needs of the young people and use these to design themes for the sports events. During the games, participants are tasked to share information they know regarding the selected theme and this is used as a way of sharing information as well as learning among peers. This is one of the key strategies Youth Alive believes attracts many young people to access health information and services. Over 24 sports galas were conducted reaching out to over 4,000 young people during this reporting period under the themes "Live an HIV free generation; kick HIV out of the youth"; "Abstain, have safe sex or use a condom".

Assisted Partner Notification (APN): The National HIV policy guidelines promote APN as a key strategy as opposed to mass mobilization and HIV testing. This strategy enables the health workers access all people who have been exposed to HIV and other STIs through a patient who has newly tested HIV positive among key populations. Over 50 people were tested using this approach among which 40% (majority women) were HIV positive and linked into care.

Figure 5: A winning team showing their trophy in Kiryandongo District

SRHR Drop in Centers: This reporting period Youth Alive established two drop in centers in Lutete village, Maddudu Sub County, Mubende district and Kifampa village, Kapeeka Sub County, Nakaseke district. The purpose of these centers is to bring SRHR services much closer to the people especially ART refills and routine health education to key populations who live far away from the health facilities or are unable to afford transport to the facilities. These centers are run by peers in the community and health workers are facilitated to be there at least twice a week, the peers ensure the community is aware of the days when the health workers will be available so people can come for services. To date, as a result of these centers, over 1,500 people have accessed services from these centers, a sign that these have been embraced.

Teenage mother clubs: Youth Alive established six teenage mother clubs in Kamwokya, Nakaseke, Luwero and Mubende comprising 25 - 30 pregnant teenagers aged 15-24 years. The purpose of these clubs is to bring together young vulnerable mothers to access SRHR information and services in addition to life skills. These mothers are taken through a Life Skills curriculum comprising Education for Life (EFL), Soft skills, SRHR, financial literacy and business skills for instance making crisps, soap and hair dressing among others. The main objective is to integrate SRHR and life skills to enable them afford essential needs. Mobilization of these teenage mothers is done in partnership with peers, youth leaders and village health teams in the communities. They are then monitored to ensure they attend all Antenatal Care (ANC) sessions with the end result of having safe deliveries at the health facilities. This year 90% delivered at the health facility. After delivery, they are followed up to ensure they take good care of themselves and the babies, attend all immunizations and most importantly uptake family planning to minimize repeat pregnancies.

Figure 6: Misean Cara visiting teenage mothers at Kajjansi HC IV

Figure 7: Youth Friendly corner in Nakaseke receiving their TV

Youth Friendly Corners: Among the inhibitors of access and utilization of health services for young people is the long waiting period at health facilities where young people have to line up like others to access services. To avert this, Youth Alive strengthened six youth friendly corners in Nakaseke, Luwero and Mubende district by equipping them with SRHR information, board games, and book shelves, benches, Televisions, DVD players and waiting benches. In order to cater for teenage mothers, a children's playing section was provided with toys where they can play as their mothers access services. These were coupled with orientation of health workers on provision of adolescent friendly services and are run by both peers and health workers full time. These corners have contributed to increased health seeking behaviors among young people as over 1,800 young people have accessed services there, a sign that they have been embraced by the young people.

Young HIV positive clubs: In a bid to address the needs of adolescents living with HIV and teenage mothers, Adolescent Youth & Gender (AYG) volunteers were selected to support implementation and documentation of youth activities at 44 health facilities in Eastern Central region. The AGYs in collaboration with health workers organize and coordinate health education of young people, profile and capture data on key youth indicators, support screening of adolescent youth for health services and follow up positive youth in care, provide health education including adherence and retention messages and ART, psychosocial, counseling services and edutainment activities. To date 972 AGYW reached with integrated Health education and information on HIV, STI and Family Planning in the 10 EC districts from 24 sub counties. The AGYW were taken through the benefits of family planning (FP) and where they can access FP services in their community. The AGYW were supported to identify key contact persons to enable them to navigate easily the health facility system. FP myths and misconceptions were dispelled, and values clarified. 128 adolescents with unsuppressed Viral Load enrolled into the OVC program PLHIV provided adherence counseling, life skills, FP and SHRH information. These have trickled down the information received during the various trainings to the young positive clubs.

ANC+ Sessions to expectant young mothers with male involvement: In partnership with health facilities, YAU provides tailored ANC+ sessions with male involvement to expectant young mothers (15-24 years). Working with the health facility workers, special days and sessions are dedicated to expectant young mothers accompanied by their partners. Besides ANC sessions from the mid wife, other sessions like life skills and visioning are delivered to form part of the ANC+. This is done to make ANC safe, secure and friendly and also particularly to strengthen the social protection for these young mothers who most times are not prepared for the pregnancy and are overwhelmed by the news of becoming mothers. ANC+ sessions are being done in the districts of Nakaseke, Luweero and Mubende. This period a total number of 1,978 (1,857F, 127M) beneficiaries were reached through 70 tailored sessions. The low male involvement still remains a big challenge as most of these young mothers turn up without their partners with some of their partners claiming to be too busy to accompany them to the hospitals while others are even afraid of turning up at the facility with their spouses.

Peer led approach to service delivery: In a bid to approve services to the young people (10-24) years. YAU adopted a peer led approach whereby peers are identified from within the same age cohort to reach out to their young peers. The peer leaders who comprise of young positives, female Commercial Sex Workers, Slum dwellers and orphaned are identified and trained on provision of SRH integrated services and their main role is creating demand for SRH services, linking their peers to health facilities and providing information on integrated SRH services. Some peer leaders who are placed within the communities provide these services through door-to- door services while those placed at the health facilities focus more on providing health education on SRH services to their peers and linking them up for quick services within a facility. A total number of 153,453 (95,141females, 58,312males) beneficiaries were reached with integrated SRH services across the districts of Mubende, Luweero and Nakaseke.

Figure 8: Peer educators developing health facility work plans

ART ADHERENCE CHANGED MY LIFE:

Nassozi (not real name), one of the peer educators was identified by Mubende District Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS and connected to YAU She was missing her ARV medication which caused wounds on her body, weakness and her health deteriorating by the day. YAU took an initiative and recruited her as one of the peer educators after she had revealed that she is HIV positive. She was then taken through counseling and re- initiated on ART. Right now, she is a role model to other youth and she consistently takes her ARVs without missing any appointment, she also supports the health workers during the adolescent and general clinic days and has become a role model to the fellow youth who are HIV positive, she counsels them and helps them to adhere.

"The community now respects me because at first, I used to fear them but now since Youth Alive gave me the hope, I take my ARVs. My life is generally changed as I get some money to help me through normal day life", she concludes.

WE WORK THROUGH

Community structures: We work through District Based Trainers (DBTs) and peer educators who are selected among the young people and key populations with support of the village leaders and village health teams. The DBTs and peer educators take a center stage in dissemination of health information, conducting health education sessions, mobilization, sensitization and implementation of activities in the target communities. These earn the trust from their peers as they are among them, a strategy that we have seen yielding results through the high turn up of young people in the various activities this period a total of 175 pregnant AGYW were reached with Stepping Stones sessions and MCH services.

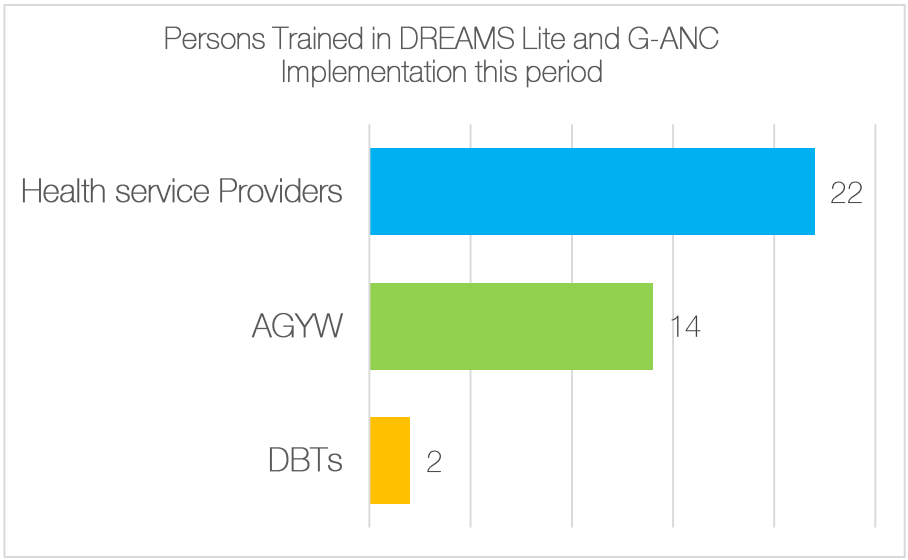


Figure 9: A peer educator conducting training to one youth group.

"The community now respects me because at first, I used to fear them but now since Youth Alive gave me the hope, I take my ARVs. My life is generally changed as I get some money to help me through normal day life", says one KP peer educator in Mubende district.

Other implementing partners: Mapping of implementing partners in the supported districts was done to ensure coordination and collaboration with those doing similar activities as well as reduce duplication of efforts. A partner like MildMay Uganda has been very instrumental in promoting collaboration among partners supporting SRHR in the districts of Mubende, Luwero and Nakaseke. The partners also participate in the quarterly progress review meetings at district level.

Figure 10: Stanbic Bank Staff offer hair dressing materials and mama kits to teenage mothers.

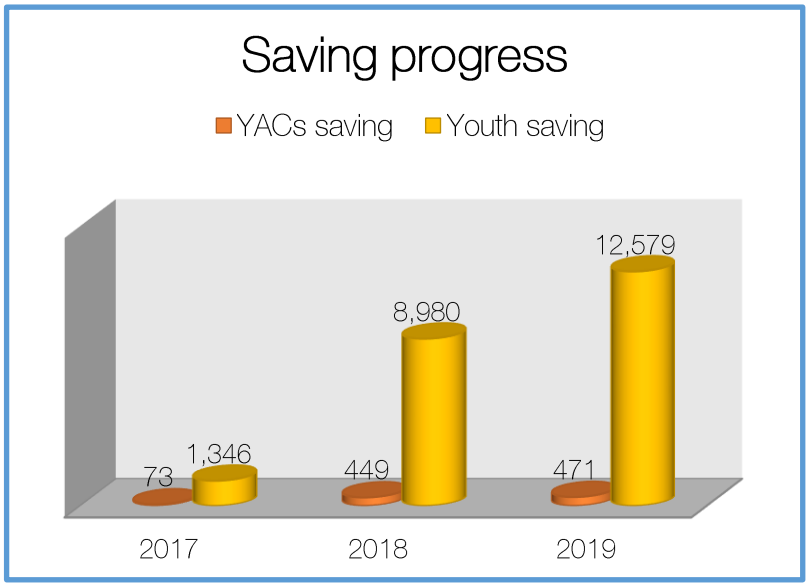
LIVELIHOOD PROGRAMS

VSLA Formation and Trainings

In the year 2019, Youth Alive Uganda in its economic empowerment interventions, formed 179 Village Savings and Loans Association with approximately 25 members in each group. Up to a total of 4,585 youth (2,449 males, 2,136 females) were trained in the standard VSLA Methodology in 3 districts of Amuria, Ngora and Bugiri in Eastern Uganda, and 4 districts of Wakiso, Kiboga and Luweero in Central Uganda.

The training content consists of the 4 VSLA concepts namely:
1. Savings
2. Loans
3. Interest
4. Welfare/Social Fund
5. Exponential Pass On Group (EPOG) Fund

These trainings were cascaded by the field based team in eight sessions namely
1. Group Formation & General Assembly
2. VSLA concepts
3. Leadership
4. Development of Constitution
5. Record Keeping
6. Meeting Procedures
7. Conflict resolution
8. Action Audit/ Share out

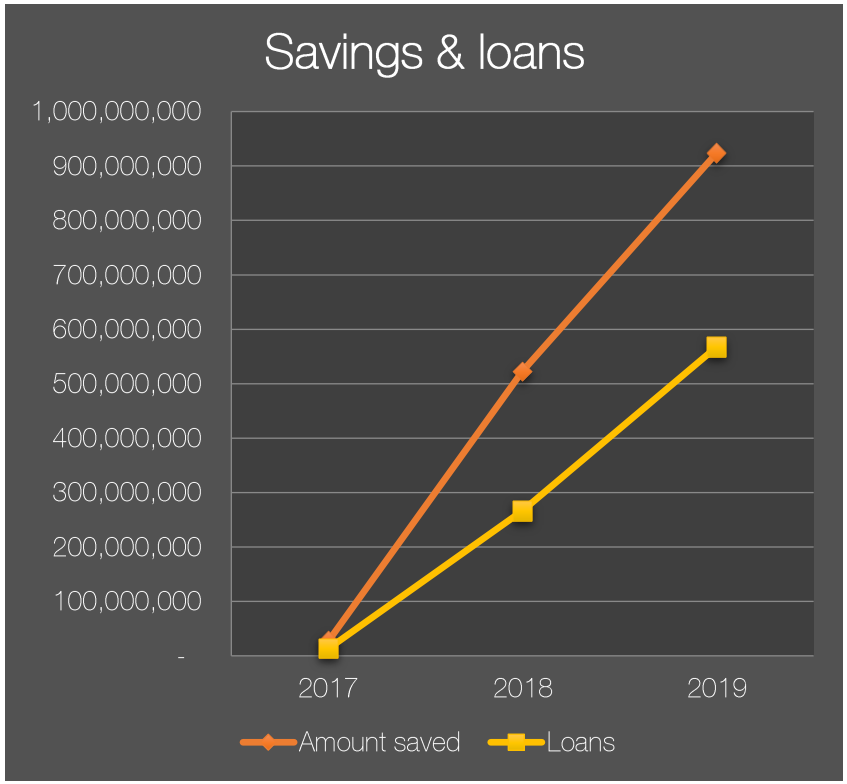


The graph shows a steady increase in clubs and youth saving over a period of 3 years (2017 to 2019); this positive growth shows that youth are embracing the savings methodology.

Besides, savings and economic empowerment, these VSLAs act as Self Help Groups for the members and they are forms of social support amongst members in dealing with both individual and community challenges especially affecting youth. The learning or best practice is that a lot of other direct and indirect support to such groupings from well-wishers and even government have always found VSLA as a very organized form of group to channel their assistances. Members are also able to take loans for asset building because of the 'saving for a purpose' component at the end of a cycle, youth have also built resilience against various forms of poverty, women empowerment has been achieved through leadership trainings and also starting small scale businesses.

For a youth, whose aspirations grow beyond the VSLA, Youth Alive and its partners have referred or linked them to other financial institutions like MFIs and Post Bank for youth specific Revolving Loan Fund facilities since they will have built the capacity to use credit. The VSLA training is completed with the Linkage banking training where the different VSLAs are assessed for linkage to a supportive bank or youth friendly financial institution. These 4,585 youth beneficiaries have therefore out of this savings platform been able to learn how to work together, care for each other and others start some small scale Income Generating Activities to sustain their weekly savings on top of empowering youth as leaders.

- ✓ *90% youth retention rate*
- ✓ *85% YACs registered at district level*
- ✓ *70% youth in YACs actively saving in VSLA*



"I am born in a family of eight children. Youth Alive has contributed greatly to my life since it has enabled me to start up a chapatti business using the money I borrowed from Okoboi Okiba VSLA. I borrowed 60,000ugx and I was able to pay it back in three months. I sell each chapatti at 500ugx and make 13,000ugx on average daily. I am now able to look after my family", Jacob. 23 years Ngora district.

Financial Literacy Trainings

During implementation year 2019, 4,611 (2,433 males and 2,178 females) in 181 youth clubs were empowered with the knowledge to make wise and productive financial decisions at critical times. As young people today, they have to plan and invest for the future because they will not remain young. The youth are equipped with knowledge around basic money handling behaviors and conduct, How money comes in (Income), how money goes out (expenditure) Good ways of investing money, Bad ways of spending money, Good ways of saving money, Why borrow, Bad ways of borrowing money, Good ways of investing money, Budgeting among others.

One of the major pieces of knowledge for the young people we trained was to demystify the different financial institutions especially the banks and its services that are youth friendly. Youth Alive Uganda's Financial Literacy trainings will go a long way to ensure young people do not become victims of bad or poor financial decisions like reckless borrowing from money lenders.

- ✓ *25% youth opened bank accounts*
- ✓ *90% of youth able to articulate main concepts about financial management*
- ✓ *65% youth occupying leadership positions in cooperatives*
- ✓ *387 youth group business plans developed, 87% funded*

Entrepreneurship Trainings

Uganda being known as one of the most entrepreneurial countries especially amongst young people, Youth Alive has tried to understand why these businesses do not survive their first year and fill some of the gaps.

Entrepreneurship also perceived to be the silver bullet to the high rates of unemployment in Uganda is a very critical component of the Youth Alive Uganda programming and is at the center of its interventions as a sustainability measure but also as a livelihood improvement stop gap measure. Youth were trained on diverse content like Youth Existing Entrepreneurial experience, Finding Entrepreneurial opportunities, leveraging youth's business experience, strategies for business success among others.

In 2019, Youth Alive reached 181 youth groups comprising of 4,609 (2,348 males and 2,261 females) young people and empowered them to learn how to start a small business and for those who already had businesses, they were trained how to expand them. More than 50% of the youth groups (VSLA-SHGs) were able to start some projects / enterprises specific in their districts for example, most of Kiboga youth started bull fattening, Wakiso, Luweero and Bugiri youth started piggery and poultry projects while youth in Ngora and Amuria started yoghurt and fish farming respectively.

Figure 11: H.E Vice President of Uganda touring a youth stall in Gulu

Business Planning

Various interventions that youth start lack the requisite documentation to access credit or even guide the business. The Business Planning package provides a youth friendly business plan template for youth who would want to do a startup or re plan for their already existing business. Our programming reached 3,993 young beneficiaries (2,096 males, 1,897 females) in 170 youth groups. The other content trained includes, defining your value proposition, identify customer segments, identifying key resources, and partners, estimating profitability and securing family support among others. The main objective was to give the young people a blue print, futuristic picture of the business, what it needs to start, how it will fare and what it will require the youth to grow and sustain this enterprise. Most of the people who went through the sessions end up wishing they had that knowledge before while the others pick the courage to go and engage in startups. While we encourage youth to start and expand their business, these are encouraged to take advantage of the fact that Uganda as an agricultural country, they must harness the opportunities in the different value chains of the different agricultural commodities. To date 387 business plans have been developed and 87% of them funded by financial institutions especially Post Bank.

Youth Access to Government Funds and resources.

There is currently more than five government direct and indirect support programs with funds for the youth in Uganda. Due to the fact that, most of the youth beneficiaries that Youth Alive works with belong to registered VSLAs, they are officially registered with the Local Government offices as CBOs with Certificates of Registration; they therefore automatically qualify to apply for these funds if they fulfill the other requirements about the intended business to fund. Some of the special programs include Youth Livelihood Programme (YLP) Uganda Womens' Entrepreneurship Program (UWEP) Community Parish Association Fund (CPA) Luweero Rwenzori grant for youth beneficiaries within the Luweero - Rwenzori Triangle (once ravaged by war) and Agriculture Credit Facility (ACF) in Bank Of Uganda through various commercial banks.

While it is believed that these funds are very hard to access, Youth Alive interventions have broken the barriers of the youth to access these funds but also changed the negative attitude of the youth towards these funds by creating an enabling environment between the groups and the government offices especially the CDO and DCDO supposed to manage them. By 2019, 459 youth groups comprising 11,475 youth were all sensitized on the funds and given information on how to benefit. It is therefore worthwhile noting that more than 55 youth groups (12%) comprising of 1,375 youth have benefitted from these funds while 25 youth groups are in the processing of benefitting.

Figure 12: Covering an entrepreneurship story on a 19year old teenage mother

Teenage mother clubs: To date over 300 teenage mothers have been supported and as a result of the support they have established VSLAs where they are able to save and access loans at friendly interest rates to start individual businesses. 30% of the teenage mothers who were followed up have established small businesses which include; making of liquid soap, hawking snacks, plaiting hair at home and 5% have got jobs in the neighboring salons and restaurants. In addition, Youth Alive supported nine Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and district staff on the Stepping Stones methodology, youth envisioning and economic livelihoods. As a result, the CSOs trickled down the training to over 30 groups among which nine have started saving and implementing small projects like making liquid soap, hair dressing, running grocery shops, bakery and making reusable menstrual pads.

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AND MENTORSHIP

Education for Life

The education for life, a behavior change process is intended to support Youth Alive clubs through a process of self-discovery. Depending on the age of the individuals in the group, the program either reinforces present youth ***"productive"*** behavior and skills or bringing about a change in behavior. The process involves young people drawing group and personal life plans (visioning) identifying resources needed to realize the vision, possible barriers and how to manage them, and supportive mechanism required. It emphasizes that participants draw their vision because of the positive power of images in influencing action.The EFL program has three stages; ***Exploring Life*** which is knowing and accepting current reality, ***New picture*** which is choosing and committing to possible new behavior and ***Action*** which involves drawing planning and working on realizing them.

A total of 305 out of school Youth Alive Clubs (YAs and SHGs) were trained in EFL reaching 10,943 beneficiaries (6028 males and 4,915 females) in the districts of Kiboga, Luwero, Wakiso, Bugiri, Ngora, Amurua, Dokolo, Kole, Kiryandongo and Masindi. Additional 10 in-school Youth Alive clubs were trained in EFL reaching 10,943 beneficiaries (6028 males and 4,915 females) in the districts of Kampala, Wakiso, Mpigi, Mukono and Luwero. Through the program, young people have re-discovered their life purpose, drawn and defined their vision, identified strategies and resources to achieve their vision, experienced mindset change and now recognize the power of positive peer pressure in influencing their behavior.

Figure 13: A youth explains his vision to his peers during an EFL training

Ocheme Anthony a youth aged 22 years from Kireeba village, Kakakala Parish has positively changed his life after acquiring EFL, Cornerstones trainings. He is currently having a kitchen garden growing famous greens locally known as "Bugga and Nakati". His kitchen garden is established on a plot of land 50 by 100 ft which he owns personally. He sells his greens in Zirobwe trading Centre at an average of 1000/= per cluster and on a successful day he able to make 50,000/= of which he has managed to save 5000/= per week with the group VSLA. Anthony's Vision is to put up or construct a permanent house and later expand his green business. Anthony is a role model to the youth within Kireeba village because he confesses the transformation from being a lousy Rasta in the community to currently a role model to the community youth. Anthony has been able to share his experience with the District government leaders. Anthony, Luwero district.

Work Readiness Skills

Most young people do not have access to work readiness/life skills like job searching and retention, creative thinking, systems and technology, interpersonal, communication, and transition skills that are neither taught in learning institutions nor homes. Yet these skills are important in ensuring that young people have the basic decision making, critical thinking, relationship and personal skills necessary to maintain employment. Under each project, Youth Alive has work readiness/life skills curriculum customized for the needs of the target beneficiaries that is normally facilitated alongside EFL or immediately after.

The year 2019 saw Youth Alive conduct work readiness sessions for Youth Alive clubs (YAs, SHGs, teenage mothers, primary and secondary school clubs) and reaching 10,943 beneficiaries (6028 males and 4,915 females). Further, 1,328 illiterate young people (660 males and 668 females) in the districts of Dokolo, Kole, Kiryandongo and Masindi districts were trained in basic literacy and numeracy skills using the government FAL curriculum.

The participants of these trainings received skills such as reading, writing, basic math, critical thinking, decision making and communication skills essential for optimal job performance, running a business and daily survival. Their ability to think and make sound decisions, possession of personal attributes like punctuality, work ethic and a friendly and cooperative attitude, honesty and respect for their co-workers and superiors as a result of the training has made these young people assertive enough to search for jobs and business opportunities and retain the same opportunities once acquired.

PRACTICAL SKILLING

Teenage mother clubs: These mothers are taken through a Life Skills curriculum comprising Education for Life (EFL), Soft skills, SRHR, financial literacy and business skills as well as practical skilling in making crisps, soap and hair dressing among others. The main objective is to integrate SRHR and life skills to enable them afford essential needs. Local artisans are identified within the communities in the trades of hair dressing, soap making, crisp making, teenage mothers then select the trades of interest and are assigned the respective artisans for training. The practical skilling is done for a period of 3 months where pre and post assessments are done before and after training to assess the readiness and skills obtained. The teen mothers then use their savings and loans from the VSLA to get capital to start up small businesses such as mobile salons, distributing soap and crisps to shops and earn income.

HUMAN RIGHTS AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Several activities that aimed at creating awareness around youth civic rights and responsibilities were conducted with a purpose of increasing youth participation in leadership, identifying community challenges and taking part in addressing these challenges as well as advocating for youth friendly policies that facilitate access to health services and enterprise development opportunities. Some of the activities included;

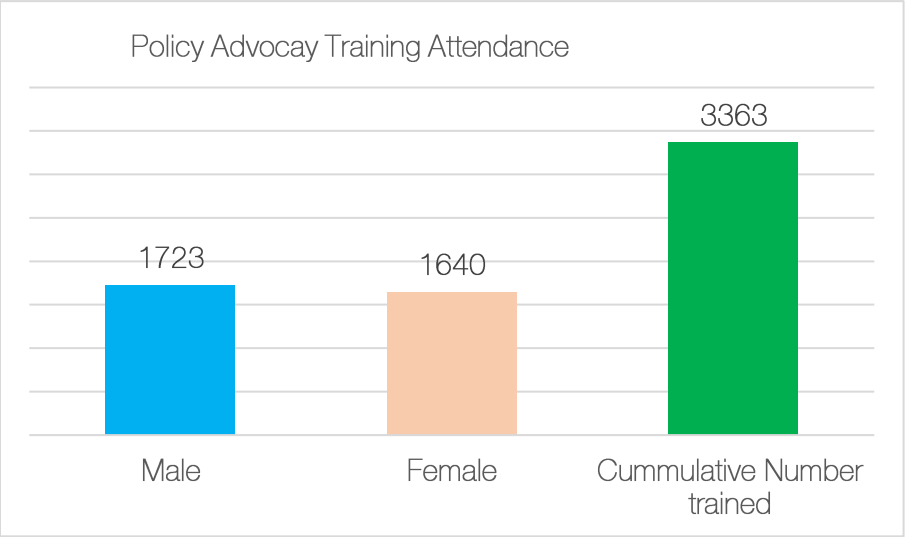
Communal Activities: In this reporting period, 122 SHGs conducted communal activities with participation of 2,042 youth (1,062 males, 980 females). The purpose of these activities is to promote social capital among the youth by keeping them together but also act as role models within the communities. Some of the key activities youth participated in include: General community sanitation activities, planted trees in the community, visited the sick and elderly. The continuous participation of youth in communal activities is a sign that the cornerstones have been embraced and the youth are voluntarily giving back to their communities.

Leadership and governance training

In this reporting period 522 youth leaders were trained on leadership, governance and management of group dynamics. These included Chairpersons, Treasurers and Secretaries. The training aimed at building the capacity of the group leaders in effective governance and leadership Youth Alive clubs for cohesion in groups. The training focused on areas such as: Introduction to Governance for Youth Association Leaders , How and Why to Be a Good Leader, Being a Youth Association Leader - Basic Qualities, roles and responsibilities of the SHG Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer, Leadership Styles, Group dynamics and Management-Stages of Group Development (Forming, Storming, Norming, Performing), Factors Affecting Group Formation, Cohesion, and Sustainability, Leading Effective Meetings to Avoid Conflict, and Election of the management committee and other SHG leaders.

In addition, 650 female youth role models were identified among the groups and also trained in leadership & governance. This training aimed at empowering young girls with leadership skills so as to be able to assume different leadership roles in their groups and community. The training targeted three girls in every club especially those who are not part of the group management committee. The training was customized to appeal to the female context and their motivation to participate in governance in their groups and community at large, the key content areas of focused included: Introduction to Governance for Youth Association female Leaders , How and Why to Be a Good Leader, Being a Youth female Association Leader. As a result of the training, some of the participants requested that a similar training is given to their male counterparts because they cannot utilize the skills required without support of the males.

Youth Advocacy Training: The Youth Policy Advocacy training was based on the studies done by Kilimo Trust in the districts of Amuria, Bigiri, Kiboga, Luwero, Ngora& Wakiso. The main target of the studies was to understand the real youth needs with an aim to draft youthful or local context solutions to the issues that affect young people. A policy advocacy training was conducted, the policy advocacy training aimed at empowering youth to understand the major stakeholders and their roles in their communities, advocating for issues affecting them and be able to appreciate the challenges affecting youth especially from the policy perspective.



Meeting with district councils

In a bid to increase budget allocation to SRHR services for youth as well as promote policies that enhance access and utilization of SRHR services, it was key to involve the district local government at all levels of implementation, conducting regular monitoring visits in order to guard against duplication of efforts. During this period quarterly progress review meetings were held in the districts we operate this provided a platform to share with the districts implementation progress, challenges and lessons learned in attendance were the Chief Administrative Officer, District Health Team, District Community Development Office, Sub County Community Development Officers, SGBV Focal persons, Probation Officers, health facility in charges among others.

Figure 14: YAU & district staff conducting joint support supervision in Mubende district.

PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY AND PREVENTING SGBV

Community Sports Gala: As part of advocacy, YAU conducted district sports galas in Amuria, Ngora, Bugiri, Luwero, Kiboga, Ngoraand Wakiso with participation of 832 youth (543 Male, 289 females). The youth select a theme in line with factors affecting their participation in development projects and use that through the galas. Examples of themes include among others "youth participation in agriculture", "youth access to financial services", and female participation in development projects among others. These start with competitions within various YAU groups at village level, to the sub county level and the best teams head to the district level. Games played include football and netball. On the day of the final matches, key district officials are invited to participate in the event, the youth use this opportunity to advocate for the selected theme and at the end of the matches district officials award trophies to the winning teams as well as make speeches in line with the selected theme. These events gather youth and other community stakeholders and as a result they are used as a plat form for passing messages tailored towards over coming barriers to youth participation in development projects.

Community dialogues on SGBV: In collaboration with the District Health Teams, Community Development Officers, Police, District Probation Officers, health workers and VHTs, over 100 community dialogues were conducted in Mubende, Nakaseke and Luwero districts reaching out to over 3,000 people. The purpose of these dialogues is to discuss key SBGV issues affecting key populations including young people in the communities. The village health teams, peer educators and village leaders identify an SRHR gap in their area and this is taken up for discussion during the dialogue with presence of various stakeholders. This strategy has been seen to reduce re-curing SGBV issues in the community as a lot of information is disseminated and shared.

Self Defense Training; In the commemoration of 2019 World Aids day at Youth Alive office 2019, 149 young women from different slums of Kamwokya were reached and trained on Women's self-defence skill that empowered them with skills to avoid/resist assaults, rape and other physical violence. This was a community driven approach to protect women from increasing cases of physical gender-based violence cases where they are often victims. Women/girls were trained and equipped with martial art technique to prevent physical fighting and escape tactic to any violence. These skills have helped women to know how to protect themselves from any violence attack, escape rape and overcome dangers that may result from sexual violence. Youth Alive Uganda skills training program has ensured that girls are trained to avoid being victims of rape, defilement (GBV) and any other sexual assaults that may endanger their lives and community. This training was done by D'Juan Owens a re-known US based mixed martial expert.

Figure 15: Self-defense training conducted by a Martial Arts Expert

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Annual Stakeholders Symposium and Dinner; This memorable event was organized by YAU and took place on 6th December 2019 at Imperial Royale Hotel Kampala under the theme; ***Youth Demographics; the threats and Opportunities.*** The gathering composed of experts who presented their findings on a topic of that day and different experts in their fields provided information about their work, their opinion and perspective on the theme of the day. The discussions comprised of presentations from Youth Alive Uganda, government, private sector as well as a panel discussion by young people. The key stake holders during this symposium were the young people, government, development partners, academia and private sector and the chief guest was the Commissioner, Children and Youth Affairs, MGLSD. A call by the youth panel discussion was on supporting and empowering the youths to advocate for greater respect for their rights in relation to early marriages, access to quality education, ending discriminatory practices and exploitative conditions of work. Use of water dispensers at the event as opposed to plastic water bottles was a best practice in line with our Go Green Initiatives.

Figure 16: YAU staff, Board members and MGLSD Commissioner at the Annual Symposium

The International Women's Day 2019;

This was held on 8 March 2019, at Youth Alive Uganda offices in Kamwokya, under the theme "Think equal, build smart, innovate for change" and focused on innovative ways in which we could advance gender equality and the empowerment of women, particularly in the areas of social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure. 251 youth participated in this event, 187 of them received at least one of the SRHR services offered onsite including cervical and breast cancer screening (31), HIV counseling and testing (101), family planning (15) Immunization (6) and blood donation in collaboration with Reproductive Health Uganda, KCCA and Blood Bank Nakasero (34).

Figure 17: Miss Y+ Vivian Nabanoba addressing young people on HIV/AIDs during the international Women's day celebrations at Youth Alive Offices

Monitoring and Evaluation

This year the M&E portfolio supported data collection for mid-term evaluations for various projects and results are indicated below. We also conducted routine monitoring activities including spot checks during implementation, data quality assurance audits, baseline data collection and youth profiling for new projects, facilitated quarterly progress review meetings with focus on data utilization for planning and decision making.

Technical Assistance to other Organizations

Swiss Contact Uganda

Youth Alive Uganda conducted a pre/post learning survey among youth in U-Learn project which is part of the MasterCard Foundation Youth Livelihoods program aimed at supporting youth transition from education to employment by providing young people with a comprehensive and tailored package for meaningful employment and entrepreneurship opportunities. The purpose of the survey was to assess changes in attitudes and application of knowledge and skills learnt by the youth beneficiaries of the U-Learn Phase II project. The survey applied a non-experimental pretest – posttest design, cross-sectional in nature with convergent mixed methods of data collection, where both qualitative and quantitative data was collected simultaneously. This was a follow on of the Life Skills Curriculum which YAU developed for Swiss Contact for the project.

2019 BENEFICIARY SURVEY RESULTS

INDICATOR	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Percentage of youth declared/measured to have improved their livelihood	88.4%	87.7%	88.1%
Percentage of youth with increased income	80.0%	80.0%	80.0%
Percentage of youth households with increased assets	67.8%	69.3%	68.4%
Percentage of youth operating businesses or engaged in employment related to the vocational skills acquired	97.9%	97.2%	97.6%
Proportion of youth who completed vocational training	70.8%	72.6%	71.6%
Proportion of youth enterprises benefiting from financial products	71.4%	67.5%	69.7%
Percentage of youth benefiting from VSLAs	95.6%	96.0%	95.7%
Percentage of youth enterprises receiving financial services from banking or non-banking institutions	88.5%	88.8%	88.6%
Percentage of youth participating in activities along the agricultural value chain	52.8%	51.4%	52.2%
Percentage of youth taking up leadership positions in new/existing hub	21.0%	19.8%	20.5%

2019 YOUTH WHO TRANSITIONED TO FURTHER OPPORTUNITIES

INDICATOR	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Self-employment	1,117	1,341	2,458
Formal employment	21	88	109
Started a business	3,635	3,466	7,101
Further education	97.6%	97.9%	97.2%
Other opportunities	973	614	1,587

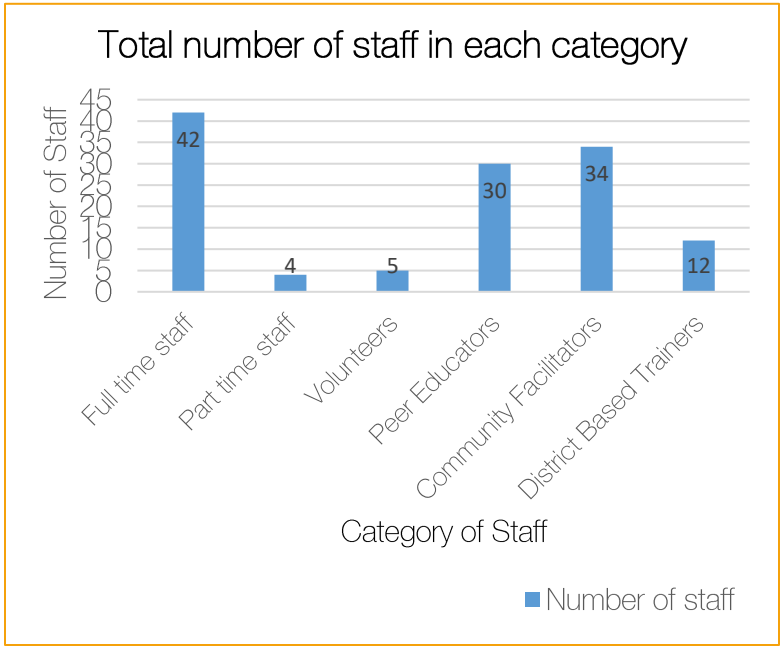
Communications

YAU participated in a number of national events including; The International Women's day, The International Youth day and World Aids Day. We were also excited to hold our very first Annual Stakeholders Symposium which attracted development partners, board members, young people as well as Youth Alive Staff. The symposium was graced by Mr. Mondo Kyateka the Commissioner Children and Youth Affairs who was impressed by Youth Alive commitment to environmental conservation as exhibited through use of water dispensers and reusable glasses as opposed to traditional disposable mineral water bottles.

The team also engaged in gathering stories of change from various field sites as well as capacity building of staff on photography. The online photography sessions were appreciated as they add authenticity to the story being told. We also scaled up use of our social media platforms especially Facebook and Twitter where we engage with our beneficiaries and keep them updated on our events.

HUMAN RESOURCE

The human resource department has a primary responsibility for managing, assisting and dealing with all employee related matters including such functions as policy administration, recruitment and selection process, benefits administration, performance management, new employee orientation, training and development, personnel records and retention. To ease the management of staff, we updated our human resource policy, ethics policy, volunteer's policy and the home working policy with the aim of supporting the day today running of the organization. We work through full time staff, part time staff, volunteers and community structures (peer educators, DBTs and Community Facilitators). This year we recruited five volunteers, 10 peer educators and two full time staff to fill the vacant positions.



RECOGNITION OF HIGH PERFORMING STAFF

FAREWELL MESSAGE TO JOSEPH KANAABA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR 2007 TO 2019

A decade of working with you was such a blessing to all of us at Youth Alive Uganda. You are a very hard working person, who inspired us in so many ways. Thank you for all the words of encouragement and full support, your high quality service and excellent performance. You were such a great leader and an inspiration and we wish you all the best in your next path.

WELCOMING THE NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JAMES BYARUGABA

Congratulations on your new appointment from Director Programs and Business Development to Executive Director Youth Alive Uganda. Thank you for the leadership and mentorship provided under your previous role. We are pleased to welcome you in your new role and look forward to working with such a skilled and experienced leader and we hope to have a great time under your guidance and supervision.

Team Building

This year the team building event took place at Ndere Center to mark our end of year achievements as well as catch up with all the field teams. These events are used as an avenue to bring together all YAU staff from head office and the field to get together, share experiences, successes and implementation challenges encountered and jointly come up with solutions. The event also enables us celebrate the end of year together as a team and set goals for the New Year.

Figure 18: YAU closing the 2019 at Ndere Center

Best Practices

Involvement of parents and local leaders in youth programming through sensitization and joint monitoring facilitated the process of youth acquisition of land for production, especially the female program participants. Further, parents appreciated youth need for SRHR information and services and became part of voices advocating for age appropriate youth access to SRHR information and services.

Integrated programming where all staff were introduced to basic components of health, education, livelihood, human rights and skills development ensured youth access to holistic program package no matter the program theme they are recruited under. Given limitation in number of staff and resources to recruit more, this approach enabled staff efficiency and effectiveness, and youth group access to integrated information from a single staff visit.

Challenges

The high demand for health commodities and services at facilities by the youth often surpassed the supply. The demand was created by numerous outreaches that encouraged youth to seek health services. Youth Alive worked with health facilities and partners to advocate for more health commodities.

Attrition of peer leaders, DBTs and other local implementing structures: It is however important to note that most of the attrition cases were positive as these young champions were either graduated to full-time staff within YAU or got better opportunities with our partners. Other reasons for attrition included female peer leaders getting married in distant places, returning to school and rural urban migration. This meant that YAU had to invest time and financial resources to train and mentor new implementers to continue the work of those who had left.

Limited funds allocated to MEL activities affected monitoring, evaluation and support visits. Similarly the MEL department is understaffed as some projects do not have MEL officers leaving monitoring, evaluation and learning tasks in the hands of program team. YAU adopted integrated programming where program team had their capacity built in MEL to prepare them for additional roles

YOUTH VOICES

"My name is Yoas Etapu and I am a member of Alasi Youth Self Help Group (SHG). Through this group I have attained knowledge on how to manage life and family. I have one child and a wife who I can ably look after because of the financial literacy I have acquired. I am also a football captain of my group and we play football every evening. This has helped us keep the group together and this also part of exercise for our bodies."
Yoas Etapu - 24years (Amuria District)

"I used to be a serious drunkard but now since I know I have weekly saving, I had to stop taking alcohol and spare that money for the VSLA so that I am able to save on time. In February I borrowed 50,000ugx and bought 2.5kgs of ground nuts for planting. I hope to get 4-6 bags of g nuts and sell between 120,000-150,000ugx each bag. EAYIP has indeed enlightened me on agriculture and animal rearing". Onyait Vincent 25years Amuria district

"I enjoy farming and that is why I ventured into selling of vegetables like tomatoes, eggplants, Sukuma wiki and groundnuts. I took a loan of 200,000ugx from my VSLA where I am the money counter and invested it into silver fish selling. I managed to get a profit of 70,000ugx. Right now I am no longer in this business because it is a rainy season and the fish tends to go bad easily. I will now venture into avocado selling to nearby schools",
Babra, 20 years, Amuria district

"I dropped out of school in senior three due to school fees related issues; however, this has not held me back. Because of EAYIP, I managed to borrow 140,000ugx which I managed to pay back in three months. I used this money to hire a garden where I planted ground nuts. I also started a small business where I sell tomatoes, onions and silver fish. I buy a bucket at 7000ugx and sell between 1000-1500ugx in small portions. The bucket is usually sold out by the second day. We are 6 children in my family and I am working hard to endeavor that my siblings go back to school,"
Akello Judith 20 years, Amuria district

"I helped a neighbor weed their ground nuts garden and I was given 10,000ugx. Part of which I saved in the VSLA and the rest was used for basic needs at home. Later, I borrowed 10,000ugx which I used to buy soya beans, I fried them and sold in small quantities of 100-200ugx and I made a profit of 5000ugx. The second time, I borrowed 20,000ugx and added sim sim to the business. I hope to keep expanding until I own a shop in the trading center", Esther, 19 years Ngora district

Godfrey Ssebbunza a youth aged 23 years from Namakofu village, Nambi Parish has gained fame in Zirobwe Sub County after participating in the Business Pitching competitions that took place at the District Head Quarters on the 19th of March 2019. Godfrey was one of the competitors who marketed and taught participants how to grow matooke. He had the technical information required and as a result, his Sub county leaders back home gave him 50 tissue culture banana suckers for planting on his garden in appreciation. He has also transformed other youth in his village who were initially considered to have inclusion challenges by supporting them in their community.

Afayo Youth Group which is an EPOG located in Nankonge Parish in Katalemwa Bbya village (under Kisubi hub) Wakiso district received 3 million UGX from Local government through the Luweero – Rwenzori fund. The group comprises 30 members (13male, 17 female). Prior to receiving the Luweero – Rwenzori fund, the group members mobilized 750,000ugx with a contribution of 25,000ugx per member. This money was used to set up a poultry house which acted as a basis for their recommendation for the fund. On receiving the fund, the group purchased 200 broilers which they are currently raring.

EVENTS & PICTORIAL

Figure 21: Hairdressing tutor address parents/caretakers of teenage mothers

Figure 20: Skilling Uganda campers showing their certificates after the skilling camp

Figure 19: A youth exhibits mushroom value addition at YAU exhibition stall during International youth day celebrations in Jinja

Figure 22: A KP Peer with his football team in Nakaseke

ELIPU ZACHAO FINDS A FORTUNE IN FISH FARMING

Elipu Zacharia is a group member of Einer Keda Swam Youth Group located in Puna Village, Mukura Sub-county, Ngora District. Zacharia dropped out of school because of school fees and he got employed by his neighbors who had fish ponds. In May 2017 the Hub chairman (Elibu Julius) was mobilizing the youth to join the groups and Zacharia got an opportunity to join the group where he started attending the trainings. He attended Education for Life, Cornerstones, Financial Literacy, Soft skills, Entrepreneurship and Business planning trainings.

"During the financial literacy training, I learnt about Village Saving and Loans Association (VSLA) and I began saving immediately. I also borrowed money from our group to expand on the fish pond", he narrates.

Zacharia started with a small fish pond through the support of his parents, however after joining Einer Keda Swam Youth group he saved more money and also began borrowing from the group to expand the business. Within one year he had expanded from one pond to four fish ponds with support from the sub county fisheries officer. These ponds contain tilapia and mud fish worth 8 million shillings. He is self-reliant and supports his family with the income he gets from the business.

"From the first harvest I earned 3,465,000 shillings and I was able to pay school fees for my sister in a nursing institution", Zacharia says with a wide smile.

He has gone ahead to provide employment for fellow youth in the community. Currently he employs three individuals paying them 50,000 shillings per month. Amidst all this, this young man has faced some challenges for instance one time floods occurred and some of the fish were swept away. The fish also get attacked by predators hence the need to fence them off.

Figure 23: Zacharia stands by one of the fish ponds.

RESTORING HOPE TO TEENAGE MOTHERS

Lydia Nabukeera is a 20year old mother who only tasted her mother's wrath when she became pregnant at the age of 19.

"It had never crossed my mind that I would ever lose contact with my mother, I spent the first two trimesters (six months) of my pregnancy without hearing from her", *Nabukeera recalls.*

Having dropped out of school in a candidate class, senior four, due to financial constraints, the eldest of four had to fend for her siblings since their parents had separated. She was not so lucky at her first job where she worked as a cashier at a washing bay and had to quit due to sexual harassment, the same scenario happened at her second opportunity.

Nabukeera is just one of the 50 young women aged 12-20 that have benefitted from Youth Alive programs at Kajjansi Health Center IV. This pilot program kicked off in March 2017 with a workshop dubbed Education for Life (EFL) and it has capacitated the young mothers with life skills as well as livelihood hands on skills like liquid soap making and hair dressing.

"I can now work without worrying about sexual harassment from employers since I am my own boss," she notes with a smile.

In 2017 she gave birth to a bouncing baby girl RahmaNakabiri at Kajjansi Health Center IV where she was attending her Antenatal Care.She now owns a salon, makes liquid soap and has volunteered to teach fellow teen mothers how to make liquid soap.

"I can now make better health choices in regards to family planning, nutrition for me and my baby and take care of my siblings",she adds.

At Kajjansi Health Centre IV, 5 out of 10 women that come for antenatal services are teenagers and this makes it an issue of concern. Youth Alive Uganda has restored hope for these teen mothers through the teenage motherprogram that comprises life skills,nutrition, Sexual Reproductive Health Services, immunization, sanitation and hygiene with the aim of improving access to health services and increasing safe deliveries at health facilities.

"I am so grateful to Youth Alive for all the support they have extended towards me and other girls in this situation. Many do not get such opportunities but we are so lucky"she said during the interview.

Figure 24: Nabukeera and her baby

COMBINING GROUP EFFORTS FOR DEVELOPMENT

Whereas the average youth would hardly take care of an elderly person with whom they have no blood connection or any kind of relationship, Work not words is a group of very kind and warm hearted youth who have taken up the responsibility of looking after an elderly woman in their village.The30 member group of 17 girls and 13 boys is found in NyimbwaSub county Luweero District.

They were introduced to theEast African Youth Inclusion Program (EAYIP) in 2017 by a community facilitator (CF). He told them about the program and they were interested in joining immediately. The youth speak fondly of the program since it has instilled a number of values in them for instance good behavior through Youth Alive Uganda's Education For Life Program(EFL) as well as the cornerstones.

Through the cornerstone of "passing on the gift", they have been able to bond with an abandoned elderly woman(Jjaja) in the village. During their first encounter, Jjaja's house was leaking, the pit latrine was sinking in, no plate stand among others.

Given their rich hearts, they managed to construct for her a plate stand, they also regularly dig around her home among helping her out with other domestic chores.

Through the program's trainings, the group wasskilled on financial literacy, they have so far accumulated 158,600UGX through weekly savings of 1000ugx. The saving culturehas created a sense of responsibility and accountability among the group.

"I did not know that somebody can save money but now I can ably save a little" notes Willy Bwagu,the group Key keeper.

The group plans to start making brickettes, venture into agriculture and vegetable growing so as to increase their resource base.

Figure 25: Group members during their visit to Jjaja's home.

PARTNERSHIPS

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