



**UNFPA**

**UGANDA**



Photo by: Outbox

# **EXPANDING THE POSSIBLE**

Innovations at UNFPA Uganda

# Innovative Solutions for Social Change



Design with the User



Understand the Existing Ecosystem



Design for Scale



Build for Sustainability



Be Data Driven



Use Open Source



Reuse and Improve



Do no Harm



Be Collaborative

Innovation is increasingly embedded in global development. It is a vital ingredient in social change processes and has proven to bring long-lasting benefits to communities. For UNFPA in particular, achieving universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights and meaningfully contributing to the 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development requires finding and scaling solutions through adaptation and improvement that can accelerate transformative results in the lives of women, adolescents and youth.

## What we mean...

Innovation at UNFPA includes leveraging and developing game-changing new technologies. However, innovation is not just about products or technology. We also work on innovations that adapt things that work to different contexts, or that represent incremental improvements. UNFPA aims to inclusively co-create and scale up solutions that are evidence driven, sustainable and open.

## Leaving no one behind Ensuring Reproductive Rights for All

UNFPA Uganda's innovative solutions target the needs of a wide range of groups: from adolescent girls in rural areas to pregnant women, refugee men and women, young couples in urban settings, health workers, social development workers, and so forth. UNFPA listens to their voices and emphasizes user-centered design, indigenous innovation, and participatory methods throughout the innovation process.

## Leveraging the 3 Es Economics, Evidence, and Ecosystems

UNFPA utilizes technology and innovative ideas to change people's attitudes and behaviors and assist eliminate problems related to sexual and reproductive health. We believe that innovative approaches will create opportunities for Ugandans, in particular young people, to contribute to Economics, generate Evidence for social change, and build Ecosystems for sustainable development.

# How We Innovate

Innovation at UNFPA Uganda follows two main work streams focused on enhancing our innovation culture and projects.

## The culture stream seeks to...

- Create an open and physical space for innovators at UNFPA office through the Innovation Cafe.
- Lead a process of learning, coordination and communication of innovation processes internally and externally through innovation forums and other events.

## The project stream provides a platform for the conceptualization and testing of innovative approaches across all UNFPA mandate areas by...

- Providing funding opportunities and technical assistance through mentorship to innovators.
- Supporting scale-up and sustainability of existing innovative ideas and programmes through partnerships with innovation hubs as well as academic and government institutions.



**\$ 264,000**

Annual funds for innovation



**4**

Innovation forums supported



**34**

Young innovators supported to develop startups

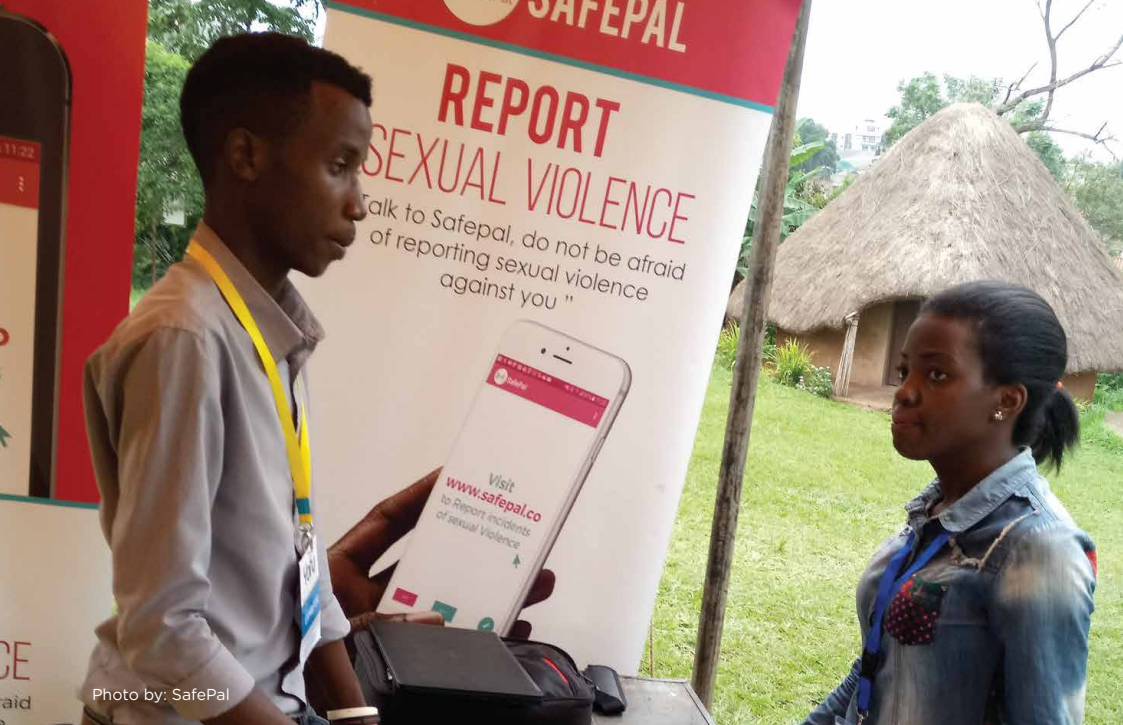


Photo by: SafePal

# SafePal

## Timely and confidential support to victims of sexual and gender based violence

**The challenge:** In Uganda, fewer than 30 percent of sexual violence survivors report to a health facility within 72 hours, a crucial window for collecting evidence and attending to immediate health needs.

**The solution:** SafePal helps young people to report sexual and gender based violence in and around schools and other public spaces. The app and online platform enable victims to report incidents in a timely and anonymous manner, and collects data for monitoring and decision-making. It also refers the victims to the closest service delivery point. Users can download the application for free through QR code and Google Play.

 **1,050** Young people informed about the app in person

**12 to 24** Year old girls and women targeted as users



 **1** District engaged

 **10** Cases reported



# GetIN

## Reaching and following up on young pregnant girls in rural areas

**The challenge:** One in four adolescent girls in Uganda will become a mother by age 18. These, and especially girls in rural areas, are the most disadvantaged in relation to accessing potentially life-saving information and services.

**The solution:** The GetIN mobile app helps midwives and community health extension workers (CHEWS) to identify, record and follow-up pregnant girls in rural areas. Using geospatial technology, health workers are able to trace the physical location of the girls, store vital patient records, and act on system notifications throughout the pregnancy. The app promotes access to antenatal care, as well as to skilled delivery and postpartum family planning.



**78** Health workers trained

**572**

Pregnant girls below 24 years mapped



**1**

District engaged



**15 TO 24** Year old girls and women targeted as users




Photo by: Outbox

# Up Accelerate

## An accelerator for youth startups working on sexual and reproductive health

**The challenge:** Many young Ugandans have bright ideas for social businesses, yet they lack technical guidance and resources to make them a reality. In addition, few young Ugandans have a thorough understanding of the social business opportunities offered by the health sector.

**The solution:** Up Accelerate provides young entrepreneurs with seed funding, mentorship and training to develop creative solutions to pressing sexual and reproductive health issues. The program seeks to support the next generation of young Ugandan entrepreneurs to succeed in the long journey of leadership and innovation for social change within the UNFPA mandate areas.

 **26** Young entrepreneurs from 7 startups supported

**113** Startup ideas by over 500 young entrepreneurs 

 **1,000,000** Ugandan youth reached through the multimedia campaign

### 7 Solutions













## Youth Enterprise Model (YEM) 2.0

**No wealth without health. Linking sexual and reproductive health and entrepreneurship.**

**The challenge:** The ability of young Ugandans to save capital and become productive workers and entrepreneurs is dependent on their ability to have healthy sexual and reproductive health lives and avoid risky sexual behaviors.

**The solution:** YEM 2.0 is a process innovation that establishes cross-sectoral partnerships to integrate sexual and reproductive health information and services and entrepreneurship training into startups by young Ugandans.

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*“ I want to be an example for youth. I talk about business and pregnancy with them... If I cannot do it with money, let me do it with knowledge. ”*

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Edith Nambalirwa, a 21 year old educator and entrepreneur in Mubende, has benefited from the integrated business and sexual and reproductive health training. Now Edith owns a hair saloon and mentors other youth in her community.



# Our partners

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- Department for International Development (DFID)
- District Local Governments
- Government of Denmark
- Outbox
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of ICT and National Guidance
- Reach a Hand Uganda



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