



United Nations Population Fund

# ACCELERATING THE PROMISE, DELIVERING RIGHTS

A snapshot of UNFPA Uganda, 2019





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# Looking back at a historic year

Globally, 2019 concluded with such a big breakthrough, especially for those working to advance sexual reproductive health and rights (SRHR). Particularly for Uganda, the preparations for the November 2019 ICPD25 Summit hosted by UNFPA, the Government of Kenya, and the Government of Denmark in Nairobi, created unprecedented momentum to advance SRHR, with the head of State, President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni taking lead in championing the rights of women and girls.

In his moving speech at the historic ICPD25 Summit, President Museveni promised world leaders and the people of Uganda that his Government will stand firm to eliminate obstacles that stand in the way of girls' empowerment, such as teenage pregnancy, child marriage, as well as all forms of Gender-Based Violence (GBV).

Uganda Demographic and Health Survey (UDHS) 2016, shows that 43 percent of women between age 25 and 29, were married before their 18th birthday.

More than 1 in 5 women aged 15-49 have experienced sexual violence at some point in their life compared to men, with less than 1 in 10 who reported having experienced sexual violence. (UDHS, 2016).

Moreover, GBV hinders women's and girls' full enjoyment of reproductive health rights. Victims of sexual violence may need emergency contraceptive pills for any unintended pregnancies; treatment for sexually transmitted infections including HIV; medical attention for other injuries including mental and psychological trauma. President Museveni also re-committed to the FP2020 pledge to continue promoting universal access to all methods of family planning and to reduce the unmet need for family planning from 28 percent to 10 percent by 2022. This commitment advances the pursuit for zero unmet need for family planning, thus bringing us closer to reaching the breakthrough that will bring down significantly the high number of maternal and neonatal deaths. And in turn, it will open up larger possibilities for women, girls, and couples

to make choices in their lives so they can work towards achieving to their full potential, adding quality to their lives as they are more empowered to contribute economically and in other different ways in society. This will eventually spur socioeconomic transformation and will help advance the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030.

In addition, 2019 created space for critical commitments in regard to young people's access to quality information and services on sexual and reproductive health by designing plans to roll out the National Sexuality Education Framework that was launched by the Ministry of Education and Sports in 2018. The Framework provides the long awaited formal national direction for sexuality education within Uganda's schools. Sexuality education reduces young people's vulnerability and empowers them to say no, delay or protect themselves when it comes to sex. This will help bring down teenage pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS.



All these interventions ensured to support Uganda's quest to invest in Human Capital Development as a key strategy to advance national development plans, as encrypted in the National Development Plan II (NDPII). In our implementation, we took deliberate effort to ensure that the different dimensions of Uganda's demographic dynamics and diversity are integrated in the planning and budgeting of the interventions, going as far as ensuring that the basic reproductive health needs and rights of people in humanitarian context are met, so that no one is left behind.

Therefore, we hope that the highlights of our successes and our learning in this year's annual report will boost the confidence of our partners as well as our beneficiaries, and inspire more action for even greater achievements in the advancement of the ICPD25 agenda, and ultimately the sustainable development goals.

# Our story in numbers



## Towards zero unmet need for family planning

**3,121,000**

women used a modern method of contraception in Uganda in 2019, of which 143,613 were new users, with support from UNFPA

**1,864,473** worth

of contraceptives were procured and distributed with support from UNFPA

**367**

service providers was built to provide family planning services including long acting methods (LARCs)

**2,900**

maternal deaths were averted through preventing unplanned pregnancies



## Towards zero maternal deaths

**30**

midwifery tutors were re-oriented on delivering the newly revised competence based Midwifery curriculum

**470**

health workers were trained on Maternal & Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response (MPDSR)

**1,153**

women underwent surgery for obstetric fistula repair.



## Ensuring zero tolerance to violence and harmful practices against women and girls

**15,822**

girls reached with Empowerment and Livelihood for Adolescents (ELA) clubs

**746**

cases were listed for GBV Special Courts hearing, 662 were concluded

**2,310**

women who experienced gender-based violence were referred to service delivery points and received psychosocial support

**85**

survivors of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) received psychosocial support and health services



### Expanding possibilities for young people through social change innovations

**7,000+**

young people were reached with social enterprise services and information

**55**

healthcare providers in Kanungu, Bundibugyo and Arua districts were trained to use the GetIN mobile app.

**300**

young people were informed about the SafePal App

**77,778**

marginalized adolescent girls reached by life skills programmes



### Building resilience in humanitarian setting

**12,131**

Pregnant women in refugee settlements identified through community pregnancy mappings and linked to health facilities

**7,965**

women received dignity kits

**4,514**

Women assisted with ambulance referrals for lifesaving maternal health services

**49**

Health facilities serving both refugee and host populations supported to provide clinical management of rape



### Resources mobilised

**27,230,267**

US dollars (24,000,000 Euros) from the Government of Netherlands for a five year programme to advance integrated sexual and reproductive health and rights

**13,000,000**

US dollars from the Government of Denmark (DANIDA) for a five year programme for women and girls empowerment

**13,572,396**

US dollars from the Government of Sweden for the prevention of gender-based violence

**4,989,971**

US dollars from the European Union for a five year spotlight initiative to eliminate violence against women and girls

# Towards zero maternal deaths





## HIGHLIGHTS



470

health workers were trained on maternal & perinatal death surveillance and response (mpdsr)



30

midwifery tutors were re-oriented on delivering the newly revised competence based midwifery curriculum.



1,153

women and girls underwent surgery for obstetric fistula repair with UNFPA support

Since 1995, maternal mortality in Uganda has declined by 24 percent. Still, 336 mothers die out of every 100,000 live births annually, due to preventable pregnancy and childbirth related causes.

**S**ustainable Development Goal number three underscores the importance of good health and well-being, this includes the well-being of women and mothers. The target is to reduce global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births

by 2030. UNFPA is supporting the Government of Uganda towards reducing maternal death by: strengthening health systems; training health workers; providing scholarships for midwives; as well as supporting obstetric fistula repairs.

# Maternal health systems strengthening

**Support to the Midwives Association** - In 2019, UNFPA embarked on supporting the Uganda Midwives Association to make it fully functional. The Association brings together all midwives from the public, private-not-for-profit and private-for-profit sectors and spearheads the strengthening of the midwifery programme in the country through advocacy for improved standards in midwifery education, regulation and practice. The Association was launched by the Speaker of Parliament, Rt. Hon. Rebecca Kadaga during the International Day of the Midwife (IDM) celebrations 2018 in Jinja District, Eastern Uganda. UNFPA supported the association to develop a strategic plan that will provide a sense of direction and guide operations.

**Midwives symposium** - UNFPA supported midwives to improve on networking, use of evidence through research studies, sharing experiences and updates, and participation in policy dialogue regarding midwifery systems. In addition, key forums such as the IDM, the Annual National Midwives Symposium, among others were organized to facilitate strategic discussions on maternal health issues such as, addressing the staffing gap, improving quality of care, improving midwifery training, practice, regulation and career progression. As such, during the IDM 2019 the Minister of State for Primary Health Care, Hon. Joyce Moriku Kaducu, who was the Chief Guest called on Government to address the midwifery staffing gap and called on members of Parliament to advocate for the inclusion of training and recruitment of midwives and other health workers in the national budget. Over 350 midwives attended the Annual National Midwives Symposium that was held ahead of the IDM commemoration.

**Trainings** - Structured and Collaborative Clinical Training Programme (SCCTP) continued in 2019 to improve quality in midwifery education and care. UNFPA supported the Ministry of Education and Sports to scale up the cascaded training in SCCTP for 60 midwifery schools that are linked to Emergency Obstetric and Neonatal Care (EmONC) health facilities for pre-service training.

In the context of fistula prevention and response, UNFPA supported the Ministry of Health to re-orient 152 nurses and midwives on psycho-social support, counseling and re-integration of fistula survivors. In addition, UNFPA supported skills based training for 49 health workers from 12 health facilities in the Karamoja region. Besides, 470 health workers were trained on Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response (MPDSR). An implementation plan and monitoring tools for tracking the implementation of MPDSR at national and sub-national level were developed.

**Geographic Information System (GIS) for Midwives-** UNFPA, through the Ministry of Health continues to support the Uganda Nurses and Midwives Council (UNMC) to strengthen its regulatory functions so as to ensure safe midwifery practice in the country. In 2019, UNMC was supported to scale up the GIS to 13 more districts making a cumulative total of 20. The system provides timely data on midwives that guides planning regarding availability, status of professional licensing with the council, location, distribution, and status of employment, as well as production and absorption capacity by the public and private sectors.



Type of Training	Category of Health Workers Trained	Number Trained
Structured and collaborative skills based Clinical Training Programme	Midwives (Clinical Preceptors) and Midwifery Tutors	60
Re-oriented on obstetric fistula counselling and care	Nurses and Midwives	152
Health workers trained on maternal & perinatal death surveillance and response (mpdsr)	Doctors, Nurses & Midwives	470
<b>Total of service providers who benefited from the trainings</b>		<b>682</b>

**Fistula prevention and response** - UNFPA with key partners like USAID, Fistula Care Plus Project, through the National Fistula Technical Working Group supported the review and costing of the Fistula Strategy to align to the national and international policies and other strategic documents including the Health Sector Development Plan, the Vision 2040, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Cumulatively, with support from UNFPA and key partners, 1,686 obstetric fistula repairs were done across the country in 2019, of which, 68 percent (1,153) were supported by UNFPA Maternal Health Trust Fund. In addition, 152 nurses and midwives who offer fistula services from eight Regional Referral Hospitals across Uganda were re-oriented on psycho-social support, counseling and re-integration of fistula survivors.

## Safe birth even here:

Midwife Kellen Sanyu works to ensure that no woman dies while giving birth in Rwamwanja refugee settlement

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You only need to look at the smiling faces of mothers in Rwamwanja Health Centre III as Sister Kellen Sanyu walks into the maternity ward to realize that she has made such a mark in their lives. Sister Sanyu is a midwife supported by UNFPA at Rwamwanja Health Centre III. She has been serving at the facility since 2014, thanks to the Government of Japan for the initial funding. Incidentally, she became a midwife on a UNFPA supported Midwifery Scholarship programme that is funded by the Government of Sweden.

"I like serving, monitoring a mother having a safe delivery and a healthy baby makes me happy," says Sister Sanyu. Indeed, she is happy most of the time because on average she delivers 6 babies a day. To her, every moment is special. But of course there are those moments that are so memorable. Sister Sanyu narrates of such experience: "There was a time when I was alone on night duty. A mother came in to the facility, it was a referral from another Unit. On examination, I found the baby was already coming, but in the wrong position. The baby was bringing out the buttocks first, instead of the head. It would be very difficult for the head to come out, and the mother was in pain. Then I remembered a tactic we had learned in a workshop sometime back and decided to try it out. I pushed my hand inside and pressed the shoulder of the baby. It came out.

Since the baby was already tired, I had to put it on oxygen. Both mother and baby recovered well after some days."

Sister Sanyu says that the facility hardly registers any maternal death since most mothers come for antenatal visits, and when it is time to deliver, they come to the facility. According to Dr. Herbert Kirinya, the In-Charge of Rwamwanja Health Centre III, skilled birth attendance in the settlement stood at 97 percent, as of end of 2019, way above the Uganda national average which is at 74.2 percent.

Sister Sanyu finds her work fulfilling because midwifery was her dream profession. As a teenager, Sanyu took care of her sick mother in Rubaga Hospital Kampala, until she passed away. "I nursed my mother for a longtime, and always watched the nurses who took care of her." Kellen says that it was then that she found her calling – she wanted to become a nurse. She did not know the difference between a nurse and midwife then. It was until she had enrolled for midwifery course that she went through an orientation and understood the difference. She opted for midwifery.

Sister Sanyu's message to all midwives out there is that they should be self-motivated. "Midwifery is such a noble profession because we save lives," she says. The story of Sister Sanyu is a clear demonstration that midwives are critical cadres in ensuring that the world delivers on the promise towards sustainable development agenda.

Since 2010, the Government of Sweden through UNFPA has supported the Government of Uganda to improve maternal, newborn and adolescent health indicators in the country. A total of 590 midwives have benefited from the Midwifery Training Bursary and Bonding Programme. By the close of 2019, a total of 580 had completed training, of which 488, about 84 percent, have been deployed across the country.

“

I like serving - monitoring a mother having a safe delivery and a healthy baby makes me happy,” says Sister Sanyu. Indeed, she is happy most of the time because on average she delivers 6 babies a day.



# Towards zero unmet need for family planning



## HIGHLIGHTS

143,613

new users of  
contraceptives were  
reached in 25 UNFPA  
core districts



UNFPA procured and supported the distribution of contraceptives worth 1,864,473 couple years of protection



Capacity of 367 service providers was built to provide family planning services including long acting methods (LARCs)



2,900 maternal deaths were averted through preventing unplanned pregnancies

Generally, family planning indicators have improved with contraceptive prevalence rate increasing from 26 percent in 2011 to 35 percent in 2016 and now at 36.3 percent (PMA2020, 2018- Round 6).

The unmet need for family planning has also declined from 34 percent in 2011 to 28 percent (UDHS, 2016). At the ICPD25 Summit in Nairobi in November 2019, President Yoweri Museveni re-affirmed the Government of Uganda's commitment to promote universal access to all methods of family planning and to reduce the unmet need for family planning from 28 percent to 10 percent by 2022.

At the summit, the Government of Uganda re-affirmed the commitments made at the Family Planning Summit in London, in July 2017, to increase financial support towards reproductive health and family planning supplies and commodities to the last mile. In 2019, UNFPA procured and supported the distribution of contraceptives worth 1,864,473 couple years of protection (CYP). As a result, only 24.6 percent of service delivery points (SDPs) experienced stock out of up to 3 family planning commodities over a 3 months period, 73.6 percent reported no stock out of at least 3 commodities (SDP survey, 2019).

Besides, UNFPA built capacity and mentored over 367 service providers who reached 143,613 new users, thereby increasing access to rights based family planning including scaling up long-acting reversible contraception (LARCs). Additionally, a network of local champions was created from 10 districts

with poor family planning indicators comprising of community, religious and political leaders who were oriented on SRH/FP to address the local myths and misconceptions that hinder family planning use. The religious leaders developed pastoral letters on small family sizes and prevention of gender-based violence. UNFPA worked with the Inter-Religious Council of Uganda (IRCU) to support the orientation of 2,063 religious leaders and technical managers from seven different denominations on integration of sexual reproductive health and GBV issues in their outreaches. Thus, a total of 2,900 maternal deaths were averted through preventing unplanned pregnancies, preventing early child marriage and addressing teenage pregnancies using family planning.

In 2018, UNFPA with support from UK Aid from the UK government provided financial and technical assistance to 12 district local governments to develop district specific Family Planning Costed Implementation Plans (FP CIP) aimed at increasing focus and prioritization of family planning at local government level. In 2019, this assistance was extended to 8 additional districts bringing to a total number of 20 districts that can now use their context specific FP CIPs to prioritize family planning in their development and operational plans.



## Rev Moses Ssemugooma:

Using the scripture to advocate for smaller families

**Reverend Moses Ssemugooma was part of Uganda's delegation at the ICPD25 Summit in Nairobi. In Uganda, he is a strong advocate for sexual and reproductive health and rights, including family planning. UNFPA had a conversation with him.**

**What inspired you to dedicate your career to fight for sexual and reproductive health and rights, including family planning?**

As a senior clergy as well as a Diocesan Health Coordinator for Mityana Diocese, my role is to implement policies or resolutions made by the top leaders of the Church. It is in keeping this biblical mandate that the Episcopal leadership of Church of Uganda sitting on 5th November, 2010 resolved to address hitherto ignored issues of gender-based violence, HIV prevention, family planning and other reproductive health issues. Resolution 3 and 4 of that meeting committed all church leaders to address the above said issues by empowering the followers with knowledge that promote good health.

I decided to be a CHAMPION of family planning so that I can influence other Religious leaders. We have a saying in Luganda, '*Nanyini kisibo bwatakwatamu, enkoko ziffa naganga*' literally translated as 'If the owner of the pen does not take care, all the chicken will die.'

**Is there a moment or powerful experience that re-ignite your passion and keeps you going?**

Yes. When I see that now many religious leaders are joining this struggle of promoting family planning through church structures it gives me great joy that we can contribute to reduction of unintended or unwanted pregnancies.

**In the area of SRH, who have been your hero or heroines and icons that we can all learn from?**

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Stephen Kaziimba who is a strong family planning Champion. He was the Bishop of Mityana Diocese, now the Arch Bishop of the Church of Uganda. He is using his position to advocate for sexual and reproductive health services as he has always said, 'Any sermon without a message on health.'

**As a religious leader, how have you used your platform to advance the ICPD agenda, specifically in the context of family planning?**

I have used the power of the pulpit to integrate family planning messages in all my sermons and talks during any church event and other occasions when given opportunity to speak.

Still, I have been able to influence different religious leaders to become active champions of family planning. I have been able to use the interfaith platforms at sub-national and national level. They have been able to sign commitments to be strong advocates.

**What inspired you to advocate for district specific Costed Implementation Plan for Family Planning?**

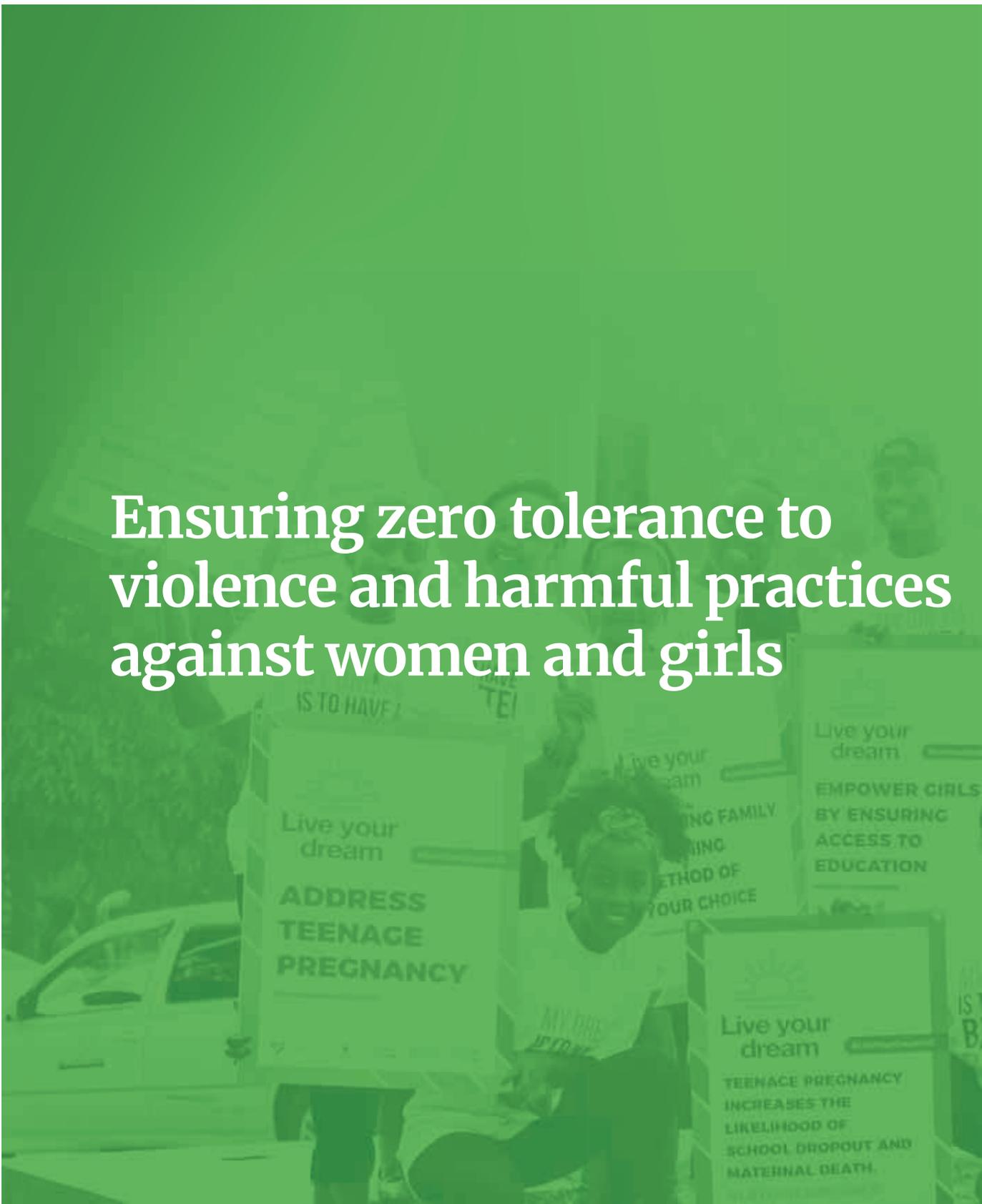
Being part of the society, I happen to participate in the district meetings on health and education. In one of Mityana district health sectoral committee meetings, it was shared that the district was greatly affected by the high fertility rate at 7.5, one of the highest in the country! We agreed to have a district led Family Planning Costed Implementation Plan.

**What is that one issue you would still want to be addressed?**

Building the capacity of religious and cultural leaders is critical, so that they can become Champions and advance family planning. The dream was realised and now Mityana became the first district to have a District Costed Implementation Plan for Family Planning.



# Ensuring zero tolerance to violence and harmful practices against women and girls





Uganda’s predominantly young population holds the promise of driving change and has the potential to transform the country’s socio-economic course.

## HIGHLIGHTS

# 15,822

girls were reached with Empowerment and Livelihood for Adolescents (ELA) programmes

# 746

cases were cause listed for GBV Special Courts hearing, 662 were concluded

# 320

Justice Law and Order Sector actors were trained in handing cases in a Gender and Child friendly manner.

**F**or this to happen, however, there is need to invest in young people; building their knowledge and skills and providing them with opportunities for a healthier and more prosperous future. At the historic “Nairobi Summit on ICPD25: Accelerating the Promise,” in November 2019, President Yoweri Museveni committed that the Government of Uganda would stand firm on eliminating obstacles that stand in the way of girls’ empowerment including teenage pregnancy and child marriage, as well as all forms of gender based violence. Prior to the Summit, over the course of the year, UNFPA worked with young people. We leveraged our expertise and resources and those of our partners; encountered challenges and learnt lessons along the way as we worked to inspire and impact the lives of millions of young Ugandans.

# Unleashing the power of Uganda's youthful generation

In 2019, UNFPA supported mentorship activities for young people especially vulnerable adolescent girls in over 25 districts in the country

The efforts resulted in reaching 77,778 adolescent girls. Through our advocacy work we helped contribute to ensuring safer environments for adolescent girls at risk of harmful practices, such as child marriage and female genital mutilation including supporting the development of the country's first ever framework on sexuality education. Our multimedia campaign, Live Your Dream helped create public awareness and generate conversations on how to protect young people from child marriage and other harmful practices, enable them to stay in school and prevent teenage pregnancy and work with young people to harness their potential.

We also invested in strengthened capacity of our partners to provide youth-friendly services to young people through training of health workers, youth champions and peer educators.

In addition, with funding from the UN Secretary General's Peacebuilding Fund, UNFPA facilitated the training of 110 youth in leadership and peacebuilding. The objective of the project is to harness the potential of young people to sustain peace in Uganda. In 2020, we hope to strengthen our focus on using catalytic, time sensitive and innovative activities to strengthen the engagement of young women and men in peacebuilding and political processes through meaningful inclusion.





# Sexuality Education. The Ugandan way

UNFPA's long term advocacy yielded results as Ministry of Education launched the Sexuality Education Framework

In 2019, UNFPA invested resources in supporting the Ministry of Education and Sports to roll out the National Sexuality Education Framework. The Framework was officially launched by the First Lady and Minister of Education Ms. Janet Museveni in May 2018, and is a policy guidance on provision of sexuality education to young people in schools.

Since 2011, UNFPA has supported advocacy efforts to ensure that sexuality education is mainstreamed and integrated in the formal education curriculum. UNFPA has consistently worked with the Ministry of Education and Sports and the National Curriculum Development Centre, providing technical assistance in particular data on the issue. The process has been long and rocky; with opposition from various circles because of inadequate information about exactly what sexuality education is.

As a way to ensure that the advocacy efforts would bear fruit, a major focus of UNFPA's work in 2019 was to step up efforts to generate compelling evidence on the need for streamlined provision of sexuality education to enable young people protect their health, well-being and dignity. This was through active participation in the Technical Working Group (TWG)

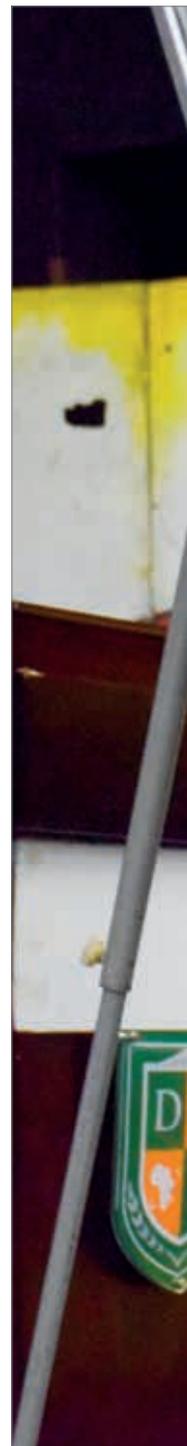
composed of UN agencies (UNFPA, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNAIDS) whose role was to provide technical advice and data as the Ministry of Education and Sports took ownership of and led the process of developing the policy on sexuality education.

The next step was to make the process of developing the framework as consultative as possible. Supported by UNFPA and other members of the TWG, the Ministry of Education held consultative meetings with religious and cultural leaders, teachers, government technocrats and representatives of civil society and young people's groups and networks as well as with Parliamentarians. During these dialogues, UNFPA and partners took the opportunity to address myths and misconceptions around sexuality education.

“We owe our children a holistic education that empowers them with life skills, values and builds character.”  
First Lady and Minister of Education and Sports Hon. Janet Museveni, said while launching Sexuality Education Framework.

Following the launch of the framework, UNFPA supported the Ministry of Education to embark on implementation of the activities. First off was the development of Operational Guidelines to guide implementation; 262 head teachers were oriented on the framework to enable them develop skills to engage young people on issues of sexuality.

In addition, UNFPA supported the Ministry of Education to integrate sexuality education in key subjects (General Science, Biology, Music, Religious Education, Physical Education) for lower secondary level. The Ministry has also developed Sexuality Education readers (instruction manuals) for pupils at higher primary school level.





# Safe and support spaces for adolescent girls

Better Life for Girls Programme - Through this programme, with support from Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), UNFPA supported the establishment of safe spaces and support groups, also referred to as Empowerment and Livelihoods for Adolescents (ELA) clubs.



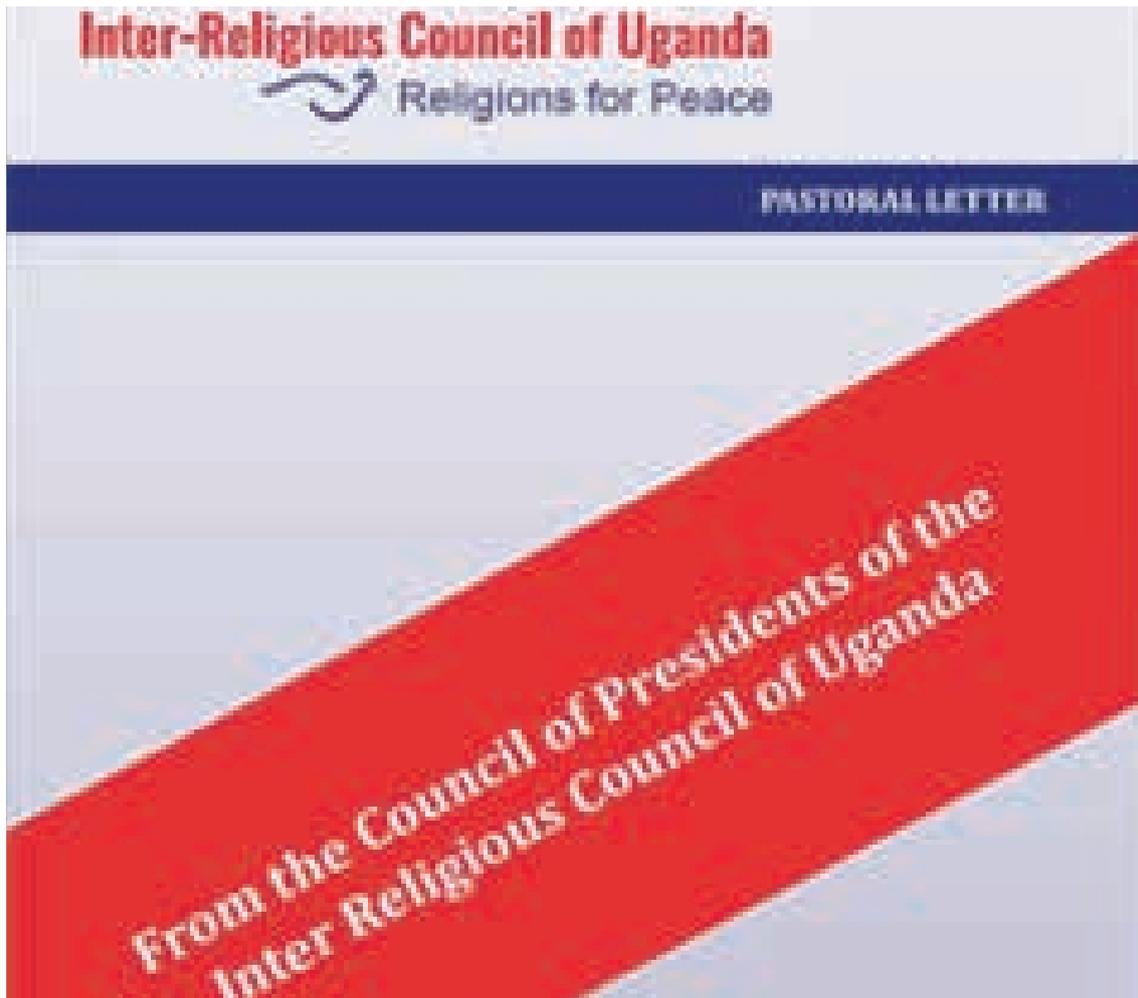
UNFPA Representative, Mr. Alain Sibenaler takes a selfie with ELA girls at Kinawanswa ELA Club in Iganga district, Eastern Uganda.

The safe and support spaces offer private and confidential meeting environment in which adolescents share or are equipped with correct knowledge on sexual and reproductive health including family planning, and is often stocked with SRH products such as sanitary pads. In the same spaces, adolescent girls are given basic training in financial literacy. Furthermore, in the safe spaces adolescent boys are sensitized on menstruation and menstrual hygiene so that they can support female students and create a less stigmatizing environment at school. Safe spaces are generally managed by senior women teachers for the school-based safe spaces; and by peer educators, youth leaders or peer mentors for the community-based spaces. The safe spaces are also linked to health facilities and health workers. As such, through the safe spaces, adolescents have access to health professionals on SHRH information and services.

## The Empowerment and Livelihood for Adolescents (ELA) Clubs

UNFPA supported 575 ELA clubs in 2019, with 15,822 adolescent girls enrolled. In the same year 12,453 girls graduated from the clubs. In addition, the girls have been linked to existing opportunities within their communities. The ELA club training modules were revised to integrate HIV/AIDS information. Besides, boy's ELA clubs were initiated to enhance male engagement in GBV prevention through the livelihood programmes.

This additional element to the club led to the renaming of the model to ELA Plus. In total 300 boys and young men were reached with SRH information and livelihood training in Karamoja region, one of the most hard-to-reach areas in Uganda.



## Pastoral letters from the religious leaders

UNFPA strengthened partnership with all major cultural institutions and all major religious institutions congregating under the Inter-Religious Council of Uganda. As gatekeepers of culture and influencers held in high esteem by community members, cultural and religious institutions were mobilized to develop common SRH/HIV/GBV programming tools. Religious leaders were oriented to mobilize and interact with communities through face-to-face sessions, as well

as mass media channels, especially those owned by cultural and religious institutions. In 2019, religious leaders jointly endorsed pastoral letters on family planning, teenage pregnancy, gender-based violence, maternal health and HIV prevention. In 2020, religious leaders will continue to utilize these tools to positively affect social norm change, as well as influence expedited implementation of national policies by various actors.

# Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Special Court Sessions

UNFPA Uganda supported the Government of Uganda through the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs (MOJCA) and the Justice Law and Order Sector (JLOS) actors to conduct 13 Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Special Court Sessions at both High Court and Chief Magistrate's level.

Special GBV court sessions facilitated speedy disposal of court cases, reducing case back-log and enhancing perpetrator accountability which contributes to ending impunity. A total of 746 cases were listed, of which 662 cases were disposed, while 84 cases were adjourned to the most convenient time in 2020.

The GBV Special Courts are in line with Uganda government's commitment under the Maputo Declaration on Gender Mainstreaming and the Effective Participation of Women in African Union; the Kampala Declaration on the fight against SGBV in the Great Lakes Region, (2011); and the Sustainable Development Goal 5 which have prioritized elimination of gender inequality and SGBV.

Special courts guarantee timely and efficient handling of GBV cases; and ensure that court officers assigned have specialized training which minimizes stress and fatigue of such officers, facilitating professional and survivor centred approach while handling survivors.

The trainings minimize further psychological harm to survivors, thereby increasing confidence and access to formal justice. Prior to the court sittings, 320 JLOS actors, including Probation Officers, Prosecutors, Magistrates, Judges and Court Clerks were trained to handle cases in a Gender and Child friendly manner.

The special GBV Courts, operated holistically in a multi-sectoral approach, engaged and strengthened capacity of all actors involved in the administration of justice (Justice, Law and Order Sector) to ensure functionality of the courts in survivor centred, human rights compliant and community based approaches that minimizes harm to survivors. Based on a successful pilot in 2018 and 2019, UNFPA will support MOJCA/JLOS to institutionalize the GBV Special Courts as one of the divisions of the High Court.

## The UN Joint Programme to End Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

The UN Joint Programme on FGM supported a high level inter-ministerial cross border meeting in Mombasa, Kenya in April 2019 which brought together Ministers from 5 countries – Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Somalia and Ethiopia, civil society organizations and various actors in the FGM arena.

The objective of the meeting was to strengthen inter-country collaboration on FGM in border areas, share good practices, and chart a way forward to respond to cross-border FGM activities.

At the meeting, a declaration to end cross-border FGM in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia and Somalia was signed on 17th April 2019.

To facilitate the implementation of the declaration, a Plan of Action was developed, taking into account the four pillars of legislation and policy; coordination and collaboration; communication and advocacy; and evidence, data and research. It is envisioned that the deliberations of this meeting, if implemented, will enhance cross border collaboration between Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia and Somalia to end FGM by 2030.





## Young, female and not afraid to lead

Meet Fardosa Ahamed

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Thirty-year old Fardosa Ahamed, was born and raised in Kaabong district, in Karamoja. A graduate of Human Resource Management, she stood for and was elected District Female Youth Councillor and Deputy Speaker of Kaabong district in 2016.

**F**ardosa is a Mandela Washington Fellow (a programme for young African leaders) and founder of a community-based organisation Keep My Dream Alive that works on girl child education.

**What inspired you to get involved in leadership?**

What inspired me is the passion to create change in my community. What keeps me moving is the desire to see the change and impact of my leadership in the community I represent.

**What are some of the changes you have contributed to?**

I have been active in the affairs of the Social Services Committee where the Education department reports on a quarterly basis. I have been able to make lawful recommendations that has solved some of the many issues that have been affecting the education department in the district.

I have also been engaged with UNFPA. The Decentralized Office in Moroto has been involving us as district leaders in mobilization and monitoring of projects, particularly those targeting young people, focusing on issues of ending child marriage and HIV prevention.

**What have you learnt in the course of your work?**

Being a Councillor has given me knowledge and exposure to how local governments work. I have also gained knowledge in advocacy, lobbying and mobilization.

**What are some of the challenges you have faced especially as a young woman when it comes to leadership?**

The fact that I am young is in itself a challenge, as is being a woman. Some of our cultural beliefs do not favour young people; their ideas are not taken seriously. Our people also have a negative mind set of thinking that young people and especially women cannot make good leaders. However, I have proved myself over the last few years by actively participating

in the deliberations of the district council and showing that young women also have a role to play in the affairs of our district.

**Tell us more about your work with Keep My Dream Alive. First of all, what inspired you to start the organisation? What are some of the activities you have done?**

My work with Keep My Dream Alive is to mobilize and advocate for retention of children especially girls in school. We are also anticipating to start safe spaces for boys and girls in schools. What inspired me is the passion I have for education and the facts on how education can transform communities. I do believe in what Nelson Mandela said “Education is the best weapon to eradicate poverty.” For Karamoja to develop, there is need to invest in education of its young people. My other inspiration is to see the statistics of girls who are not in school come down.

**How can young people be supported to develop their potential in leadership as well as other fields?**

Young people need information, space and resources to be able to participate in leadership roles. I also believe education is a key ingredient. Education is a long term investment but at the end it’s worth it and it has a multiplier effect especially on girls. Support for young people’s entrepreneurship efforts is also key. Many youth have great ideas on starting up but businesses are limited by lack of access to resources such as capital and training. One of the ways to address this is to avail seed funding to support their startups as well as business accelerators to help test their ideas.

**Where do you see yourself in five to ten years?**

I would like to see myself leading my organization while making impact on the community. In the nearby future I will run for a parliamentary seat in my district: I would like to become a woman Member of Parliament.

# Safe Spaces

## Empowering women and young people in humanitarian settings in northern Uganda

In emergency and transition situations, women and young people are faced with many challenges, often worrying about the future and whether or how they will survive. This impact of crisis can be daunting with little or no support systems to protect them from violence, sexual abuse, torture, and separation from family members before or during flight. Access to sexual and reproductive health and rights information and services may also be limited.

In times like these, UNFPA ensures the creation of women, girls and young people's safe spaces as a key strategy for the protection and empowerment of women and girls affected by conflict and other disasters. Under the "Women, Adolescent and Youth Rights and Empowerment (WAY) " Programme, funded by the Government of Denmark, UNFPA currently supports 49 safe spaces in eight districts in the West Nile and Northern Uganda regions. One of the beneficiaries is 29-year-old Susan Joann who shares the benefits she has gained by joining the group: "When you just stay alone in the house with nothing to do, you think too much. Sometimes you want to commit suicide. Difficulties and stress are the reasons why I joined the group," she said. Susan Joann is a refugee in Palorinya refugee settlement, located in Moyo District, Uganda.

At the safe space, Susan Joann met many other women and girls like herself and forged new friendships. "It (the space) feels free because I interact with friends," she adds. Another member in the group concurred, sharing how they rely on one another and felt a strong sense of belonging despite being from different conflicting tribes in South Sudan.

The women safe spaces are not only an information exchange centre on issues of sexual and reproductive health and rights but are also an integral part of these women's lives as they support and empower one another to live their dreams. Meeting regularly in the spaces gives the women and girls something to look forward to as they work through their trauma and build resilience on challenges.

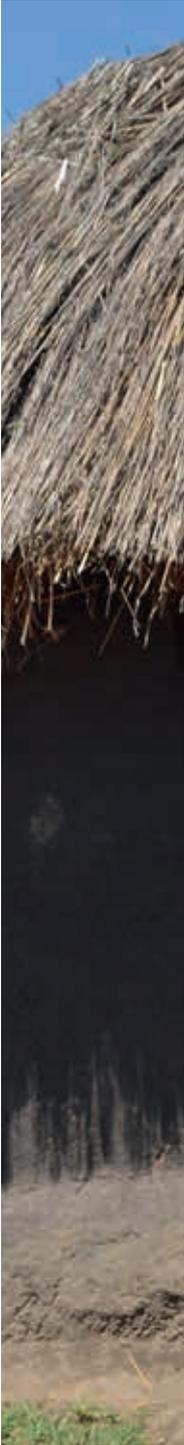
The women say meeting and interacting among themselves gives them some comfort and acts as a support system psychosocially, emotionally and physically. Considering that many of them are GBV survivors, the members have also learnt about GBV prevention and where to report incidents.

The group at Palorinya refugee settlement was proud to share a story of how they saved a young girl from a child marriage after her father forcefully attempted to marry her off by reporting the incident to Office of the Prime Minister (OPM). Today, the girl child is still in school.

When you just stay alone in the house with nothing to do, you think too much. Sometimes you want to commit suicide. Difficulties and stress are the reasons why I joined the group.

The women also support their fellow pregnant peers to reach the nearest health facility when in labour by mobilising boda-boda (motorcycle) transport when access to the health facility may be difficult. These stories demonstrate the power of women safe spaces and how they have enabled women to both empower themselves and also other women and girls in the community.

Implemented by CARE International, led by a volunteer leader trained on issues in sexual and reproductive health and rights including GBV, the women are supported to meet regularly. The volunteer leader sensitises the group about their sexual and reproductive health and GBV prevention, and provides support during meetings.





UNFPA has also linked staff from nearby health facilities to the women spaces for outreaches and health information related to sexual and reproductive health, including understanding the GBV referral pathway.

Additionally, for economic empowerment, the women are supported to make beaded bags, embroidered bed sheets, woven mats, freshly fried mandazi (African doughnuts), and other items. The women share their skills with one another so that everyone can benefit from these income generating activities.

Reflecting on the future of women and girls in the group, Susan Joann says with a smile: "After getting support and building up, they can start their businesses." The volunteer leader of the group at Palorinya refugee settlement was also considering running for the Welfare Council, which the women cheered and encouraged.

#### WHAT ARE SAFE SPACES?

A safe space is a formal or informal place where women and girls feel physically and emotionally safe. The term 'safe,' in the present context, refers to the absence of trauma, excessive stress, violence (or fear of violence), or abuse. It is a space where women and girls, being the intended beneficiaries, feel comfortable and enjoy the freedom to express themselves without the fear of judgment or harm. The key objectives of a safe space are to provide an area where women and girls can:

- Socialize and re-build their social networks;
- Receive social support;
- Acquire contextually relevant skills;
- Access safe and non-stigmatizing multi-sectorial GBV response services (psychosocial, legal, medical);
- Receive information on issues relating to women's rights, health, and services.

# Innovation: Young people taking charge of social change



**In 2019**, UNFPA Uganda’s flagship mobile applications SafePal and GetIN continued with projects in Kampala, Kanungu and Bundibugyo. The innovations accelerator, Up Accelerate also sustained an upcountry edition, with eight youth-led startups that were launched earlier in 2018.

**700,000+**

people were reached with SRH information and services.

**300**

young people were reached directly through the SafePal App.

**55**

healthcare providers were trained to use the GetIN mobile App.

**77,778**

marginalized adolescent girls benefited from life skills programmes.



**SafePal:** This App helps young people to report sexual and gender-based violence confidentially in and around schools and other public spaces. By the end of 2019 SafePal had registered a total of 336 active downloads, with 18 cases reported using the application and were handled conclusively. The cases were successfully handled and referred. A total of 300 young people were reached directly with information about SafePal through school outreaches, and up to 197,000 young people were reached through social media with information about sexual violence and SafePal.

**GetIN:** This mobile application enables health care providers to reach out to the “hard-to-reach” young pregnant women, map their physical location, and send key maternal health messages up until the three-month post pregnancy period, thereby improving their knowledge on how to ensure safe motherhood and postpartum family planning. A total of 114 Village Health Teams (VHTs), 46 Midwives, and 8 district officials in Bundibugyo, Kanungu and Arua districts were trained in the provision of youth-friendly services using GetIN mobile App. A total of 3,960 young mothers (76 percent below age of 24) were mapped, of which 81 percent of them sought and received antenatal care at health facilities in the district. An estimated 79 percent of the mapped women and girls delivered under the care of skilled health workers.



A Village Health Team (VHT) member from the Kanungu Town Council mapping a pregnant girl on GetIN mobile APP at Kanungu District Hospital.



A group of youth who are part of the co-creation sessions under Up Accelerate programme.

**Up Accelerate:** In 2019, the Innovation Accelerator Programme (Up Accelerate), up-country edition was up-scaled and rolled out, with a social innovations incubator to support young people (refugees and non-refugees) to develop and implement breakthrough entrepreneurial solutions/businesses for the improvement of sexual reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and gender-based violence (GBV) indicators. Seven youth-led startups in Northern Uganda benefited from a 144 million Uganda shillings start-up fund. This edition which runs up 2022 is focused on eight districts in Northern Uganda and West Nile regions, including: Adjumani, Agago, Amuru, Arua, Kitgum, Lamwo, Moyo, Yumbe.

## The 7 Social Entrepreneur Startups launched in 2019

Enterprise	Description
<b>Babykit</b>	A team using affordable and locally made materials to develop infant warmers to help mothers in refugee settlements that have given birth to premature or at-risk babies.
<b>Youchange skits</b>	It is a music dance and drama group which creates “you-change skits” that will help young women, adolescent girls and young people affected by conflict in refugee and host communities access user friendly information on the causes, prevention and strategies to end gender based violence through audio/visual context appropriate customer inclusive, educative and entertaining short plays.
<b>Wayupe Poker Card</b>	Created by Wayupe company, Poker Card is a book that promotes inclusiveness by helping deaf women and youths acquire Primary Health Care knowledge on HIV/AIDS through graphics, illustrations and images that can be understood by the deaf.
<b>Infopic company</b>	Infopic company created an interactive voice response system that helps women of childbearing age easily access family planning services by describing to them the benefits and likely costs of the chosen contraceptives.
<b>Antenatal care limited</b>	This is an antenatal care service provider that helps expectant mothers living in refugee communities access safe delivery services within their community at mobile antenatal clinics.
<b>Mieringa Company Limited</b>	Created a Mobile Application Service that helps young people between the age of 13 to 17 years affected by conflict and those in refugee host communities to access information and consultation services on sexual and reproductive health using toll free SMS and toll free phone calls.
<b>iKitty</b>	With iKitty, young men and women living in rural and refugee settlements and host communities in West Nile access affordable family planning services through a last mile distribution network of trained youth friendly village health teams.



## Our previous startups:

Where are they?



is a portable and easy to use ultrasound scanning device used by health workers serving in low resource and hard to reach areas including Kalangala Island, Buyende, Kampala, Bugembe, Bukwo and Kotido districts in Uganda. Launched in 2017, mScan was announced the national award overall winner of the prestigious Young Achievers Award in 2018. To date, up to 650 women have been screened for risk factors of maternal mortality using the device, 81 women were flagged with complications and referred for timely support.



It is a web and mobile application that supports health workers to easily collect data related to their clinical activities and have it displayed in an easy to understand visual way so as to aid quick and real time decision making. Since its launch in 2016, Stre@mline has been rolled out in 12 hospitals. A total of 210,000 patients have been enrolled in various hospitals around Uganda. Over 250 health workers and 60 administrative staff use Stre@mline on a daily basis.



**TEHECA** is a tool designed to solve the problem of limited access to healthcare workers. At TEHECA, expectant and new mothers are linked with well trained and qualified care assistants using mobile applications like SMS, Unstructured Supplementary Service Data (USSD), smartphone application, and social media. Launched in 2017, TEHECA has over 60 health-care workers registered on the platform to provide care for mothers not only in Uganda but the whole of sub-Saharan Africa. It has sold 320 TEHECA prepared mama kits, and reached an additional 45,000 people with information related to pregnancy through their media platforms.



Enables health centers to capture data on drug supply and consumption patterns and use the data to support decision making including re-distribution of supplies from overstocked to understocked health facilities. DrugDash seeks to address the impending supply chain management challenge in Uganda. UNFPA supported this innovation with USD 100,000 to facilitate refinement of the platform so that it is put to scale to cover more districts in the eastern part of Uganda. DrugDash is designed in line with Uganda's commodity redistribution guidelines and is working towards being a national solution for decision support for drug distribution at district and facility level.



These are low cost biodegradable sanitary pads for women and girls from low income earning backgrounds. By ensuring availability of affordable sanitary pads, EcoSmart addresses issues around menstrual hygiene that contribute to absenteeism and subsequently school dropout of adolescent girls. Under the direct support and mentorship of UNFPA and KAO Corporation Japan (a large sanitation and cosmetic company) EcoSmart successfully setup its first production facility of its low-cost and biodegradable sanitary pads. EcoSmart also showcased at the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) in Japan in 2019. Through their menstrual health education programme, EcoSmart has reached approximately 3,400 girls with information and training on menstrual health management.



# Communicating to inspire and drive change:

## The Live Your Dream Campaign

**L**ive your Dream is a multimedia campaign, implemented by UNFPA Uganda in partnership with the Ministry of Health, with support from the Korea International Cooperation Agency, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency and the Government of Denmark/ DANIDA. Implementing partners Communication for Development Foundation Uganda and Reach A Hand Uganda worked with UNFPA on developing and implementing the campaign. The first Campaign messages went on air in December 2017 on 13 radio<sup>1</sup> and two TV stations.

In Partnership with the Vision Group, the campaign messages were delivered through a multichannel format that included TV and radio serial dramas, TV and radio spots messages, print materials and social media. A total of 72 full-page features were published across all print platforms, 93 radio features and 1,969 radio spots were aired, 11 TV features and 9 TV talk shows were aired.

In 2019, the unique reach on radio was 5.7 million unique radio listeners. The unique reach for TV was 7 million according to a report from the Vision Group, the implementing partner for the Live Your Dream multimedia campaign. The Live Your Dream Campaign was officially launched by the Speaker of Parliament Hon. Rebecca Alitwala Kadaga in 2018.

<sup>1</sup>Radio One, CBS 88.8FM, Nenah FM, Open Gate, Etop Radio, NBS Radio, NBS TV, NTV, Karibu FM, Kapchorwa Trinity, Heritage FM, Karamoja FM and Kalya FM



### CAMPAIGN PILLARS

**LIVE YOUR DREAM** by Letting Girls be Girls: addresses gender-based violence, access to family pPlanning and prevention of teenage pregnancies.

**LIVE YOUR DREAM** by Choosing Books before Babies: speaks to keeping girls in school, getting proper education about Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and avoiding teenage pregnancies and HIV.

**LIVE YOUR DREAM** - With You(th): reflects UNFPA's position as lead youth agency, unleashing young people's potential, empowering for innovation and social change. With You(th) also showcases our work in humanitarian settings where we bring host communities and refugee populations together to build resilience by promoting Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights.

**LIVE YOUR DREAM** by bringing generations together (Generation for Generation - G4G), is about sharing the wisdom of the elderly with the energies of the youth, tapping on the insights of the academia with the diversity of views of decision-makers in order to improve policies that affect Uganda's future.

# UNFPA's Generation for Generation dialogue connects youth, elders in finding solutions to development challenges

A component of UNFPA's Live your Dream campaign, the Generation for Generation approach is about bringing together generations; the young, middle aged and elderly as well as the academia and decision-makers to engage in conversations aimed at generating policy recommendations on socio-economic issues. In December 2018, UNFPA Uganda held its first Generation for Generation dialogue that were steadily sustained through 2019.

A key note address by Dr. Joseph Muvawala, the Executive Director of the National Planning Authority as well as contributions from a panel reflecting diversity in age, gender and experience set the stage for what was to be an engaging and inspirational discussion. The dialogue, held in partnership with NTV Uganda, was also broadcast live to an audience of over one million viewers under the theme "Is our young population driving Uganda's socio-economic transformation?"

Delivering the Keynote address, Dr. Joseph Muvawala noted that Uganda's young population offers an opportunity to drive development if investments are made in their wellbeing. "If we don't invest in the youth who are the majority of our population we don't have innovation, we don't have invention we don't have economic growth," he said.

The panelists, Ian Lumonya a student at Uganda Christian University Mukono; Gideon Badagawa of the Private Sector Foundation Uganda; Zilla Mary

Arach the founder of Ariokon technologies; Stella Abola from Stanbic Bank; Dr Jotham Musinguzi Executive Director National Population Council and Dr. Maggie Kigozi a business consultant made the case for greater participation of young people in defining their future. They called for review of the education curriculum to better prepare young people to join the job market and creation of a favourable environment to support youth entrepreneurship. They also called for changes in the training curricula of tertiary institutions to enable young people develop soft skills such as problem solving, critical thinking, teamwork and emotional intelligence in addition to technical qualifications.

UNFPA Representative Mr. Alain Sibenaler highlighted the importance of policy implementation. "It is not a matter of having quality policies. It is a matter of being held accountable to make sure that the policies are bringing about rights-based information and equality," he said.

The State minister for Youth and Children Affairs Hon. Florence Nakiwala Kiyingi appreciated UNFPA and NTV for organizing the dialogue. "I welcome this initiative that brings together the energy, creative ideas and vitality of young people with the experience, wisdom and guidance of elders. This is an important way to generate ideas on how best we can invest in our youthful population," she said. She committed to ensure that the policy recommendations are followed up and implemented.





**TOP:** Young people at a G4G event in Kampala



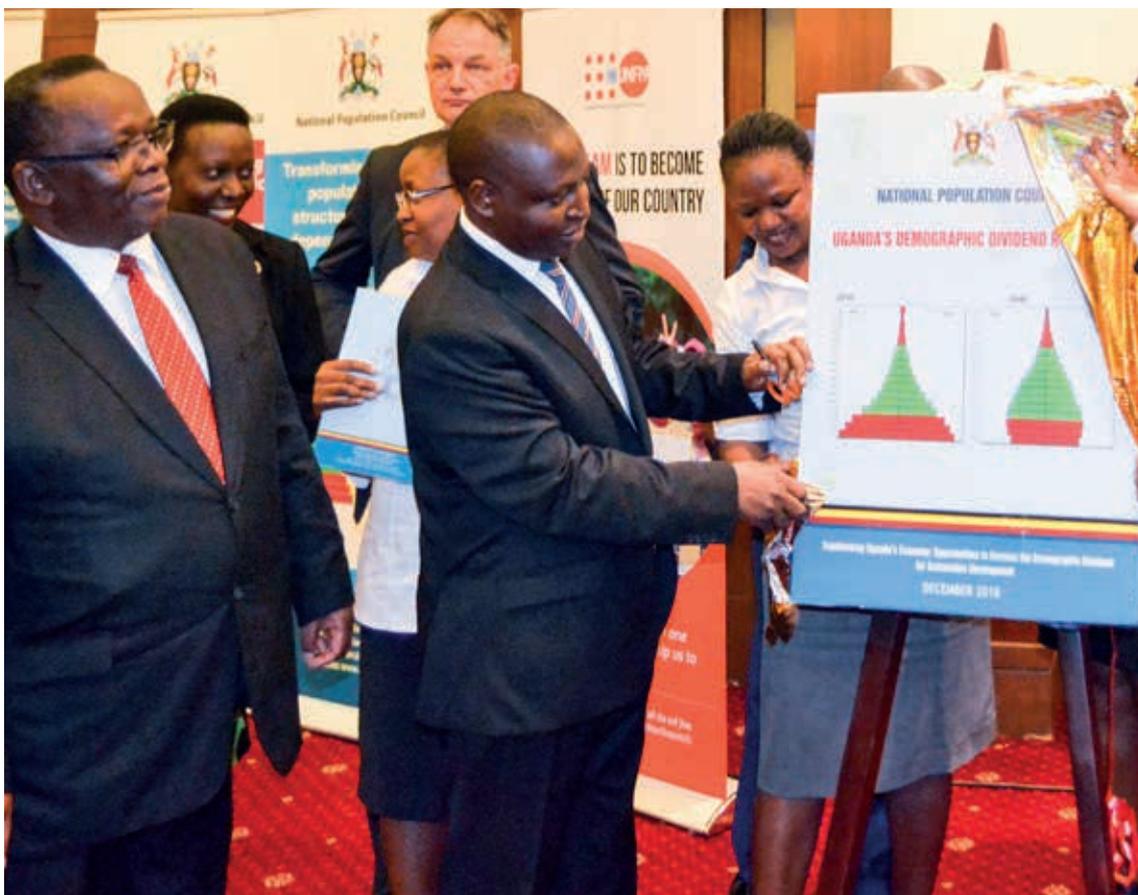
**TOP RIGHT:** Dr. Joseph Muvawala, the Executive Director, National Planning Authority (NPA) making remarks at the G4G dialogue in Kampala



**RIGHT:** Leaving no one behind: "I never felt alone, as a girl with a hearing disability" Shakira Nabakooza told participants at one of the UNFPA organized Generation for Generation dialogues in Kampala. © UNFPA/Jonathan Amwesiga.

# Demographic diversity and sustainable development





## Roadmap to Harnessing Uganda's Demographic Dividend

In December 2018, the Roadmap for Harnessing Uganda's Demographic Dividend, which spells out the game changers that must be realized in order to reach a middle-income status by 2040 was released at the Sheraton Hotel in Kampala. In 2019, implementation of the Roadmap commenced.

the demographic dividend is the economic growth potential that can result from shifts in a population's age structure, mainly when the share of the working-age population (15 to 64) is larger than the non-working-age share of the population (14 and younger, and 65 and older).

Launched by the Minister of State (Finance) Hon. David Bahati, the Roadmap is hinged on and spells out interventions in each of the five pillars of the

demographic dividend which are; demographic transition, health, education, economic reforms and governance.

With support from UNFPA and other partners, the National Population Council (NPC) and National Planning Authority (NPA) spearheaded development of the Roadmap, which emphasizes participation of young people and is aligned to the national development priorities, which are clearly highlighted in the country's development frameworks.

The Roadmap further calls for mainstreaming multi sectoral social development and encourages a visionary accountability strategy. To achieve this vision, Ministries and Local Governments should strategically prioritize and integrate the demographic dividend policy interventions into their respective development plans and budgets.

# Statement of Commitment by the Republic of Uganda at the 2019 Nairobi Summit on ICPD25

Delivered by H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni

The Republic of Uganda aligns itself to the Programme of Action (POA) of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) that was held in Cairo, Egypt in 1994, where diverse views on human rights, population, sexual and reproductive health, gender equality and sustainable development were merged into a remarkable global consensus that placed individual dignity and human rights at the very heart of development. Twenty-five years later, the Republic of Uganda can proudly claim that the ICPD has worked for the millions of women and girls in our country: our Maternal Mortality Ratio (number of women dying due to pregnancy related causes) has dropped significantly and in Uganda, policy makers at national and district levels as well as religious leaders put women's fundamental rights at the heart of their daily decisions. At this historic "Nairobi Summit on ICPD25: Accelerating the Promise", we make the following commitments that will galvanize change and drive our Country's Vision for socio-transformative change and as we continue to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

## 1. We re-commit to continue promoting Universal

Access to all methods of family planning and to reduce the unmet need for family planning from 28% to 10% by 2022. Specifically, the Government of Uganda reaffirms the commitments that we made at the Family Planning Summit in London, in July 2017 to increase financial support towards reproductive health and family planning supplies and commodities to the last mile.

## 2. Noting that Uganda is one of the youngest

**countries in the world**, we commit to annually allocate at least 10% of our maternal and child health resources to adolescent-friendly reproductive health services.

**3. Uganda stands firm on eliminating obstacles** that stand in the way of girls' empowerment including teenage pregnancy and child marriage, as well as all forms of Gender Based Violence. We continue to embark on educational reforms aimed at ensuring that girls enrol and stay in school, as well as scale-up investments in technical and vocational education and training to create employable skills and competencies relevant to the labour market.

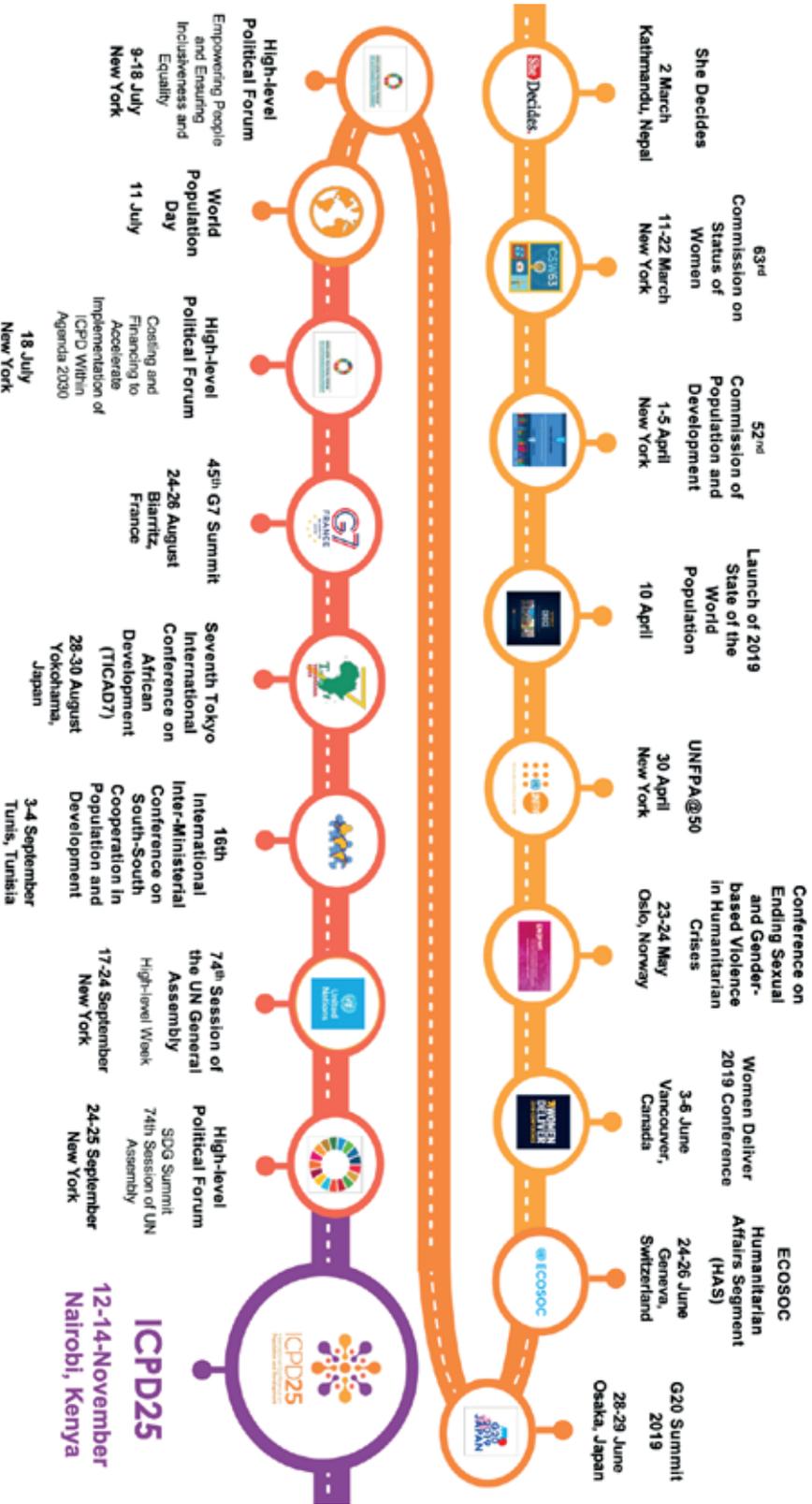
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**4. We will operationalize the National Sexuality Education Policy Framework** that the Ministry of Education and Sports launched in 2018, to provide a formal national direction for sexuality education within Uganda's schools. We will do this while upholding the positive cultural and religious values of our country.

## 5. Human Capital Development will continue to be a key objective of Uganda's National Development Plans.

Our new National Development Plan III will focus on Sustainable Industrialization for Inclusive Growth, Employment and Wealth Creation in order to leave no one behind. We have created an Innovation Fund to support innovation, product development and commercialization. The innovation fund will target investments in youth education, skilling and job creation opportunities. We will also ensure that different dimensions of our demographic dynamics and diversity will be integrated in planning and budgeting frameworks at all levels across the country.

# Road to Nairobi



# Change Heroine: ‘I survived child marriage because I stayed in school’

Emily Ayen, 22, was the reigning Miss Tourism Karamoja (2017-2018). She was also the first runner-up at the Miss Tourism Uganda contest. In 2018, she had the opportunity to do her internship with UNFPA Karamoja office, which she says, gave her a platform to the path to becoming a champion for young people’s sexual and reproductive health.

**W**hile she says, some of her friends were married off at a young age, Ayen’s story is testimony that when supported by parents and communities, even amidst cultural barriers, girls can stay in school and achieve their dreams:

## **What is your background like?**

I completed a bachelor’s degree in demography and reproductive health from Kyambogo University in 2019. When still at University, I got an opportunity to do my internship at the UNFPA Moroto office. My interest in UNFPA comes from the fact that I have a passion for saving lives especially mothers. I am interested in safe motherhood.

## **How did the internship benefit you?**

In my ten weeks internship at UNFPA, I got the opportunity to visit some health centers in the Karamoja region where I learnt about safe motherhood. We also did an analysis of the youth corners, which are now changing lives of the young people. I now see some of them going to pick condoms from the youth corners.

In Karamoja region, many women still give birth at home. Many still believe in cultural practices like using traditional birth attendants to deliver. I learnt that the community health status needs improvement and the youth need more sensitization and information about their sexual and reproductive health. We have to sensitize them more on the benefits of attending antenatal services when they are pregnant and delivering at a health centre with a skilled health worker.

## **So what motivated you to contest for Miss Tourism Karamoja?**

I really needed a platform to do many of the things I dreamt of; like being a role model to the young people. The Miss Tourism title gave me the platform to go to other districts in the Karamoja region and talk to the young people about making healthy life choices. My dream is to be a role model to the young people in Karamoja. I have become a role model for them.





**Child marriages are common in Karamoja. How did you elude it?**

My parents are learned people and they believe in the power of education. I have been lucky to get scholarships all through my schooling journey and with that support; I was able to stay in school.

That is how I survived child marriage. Of course, my parents got pressure from the local communities who would try to convince them to carry out cultural practices like tribal marking and send me off to marriage because they said I was mature enough. However, because they (my parents) were educated, they did not succumb to the pressures. I have friends who were in school with me but because their parents did not support them, they dropped out of school to get married. I really feel so bad about that.

**How will you use your position to end child marriages in your community?**

Pressures on child marriages are decreasing because communities are increasingly seeing the value of education. All we have to do is continue testifying to them that education is the key and it can lead you to achieving your dreams. For instance in my community, courtship rape is culturally acceptable. So girls do not know that rape is a crime. Girls still drop out of school due to peer pressure and community leaders suggest FGM and child marriage. I cry for my community. We as young people have the potential to change mindsets about the girl child. More work needs to be done. I intend to come up with a project that integrates staying in school with the tourism aspect.

I really needed a platform to do many of the things I dreamt of; like being a role model to the young people. The Miss Tourism title gave me the platform to go to other districts in the Karamoja region and talk to the young people about making healthy life choices.

# Our Resources in 2019

Project Budget in USD		Budget Utilization in USD
4,213,986	 Universal access to family planning	4,024,590
4,595,216	 Comprehensive maternal health services	4,254,173
3,662,435	 Reproductive rights protection and gender-based violence prevention	3,381,164
2,568,636	 Adolescents and youth sexual reproductive health	2,426,109
936,230	 Integrated SRH and HIV/AIDS prevention	918,380
1,207,958	 Data and population dynamics	1,133,227
241,936	 Programme coordination and assistance	256,695
<b>17,426,397</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16,394,339</b>



## UNFPA Uganda Programmes in 2019 at a Glance, Funders, and Implementing Districts

<b>Funder: DANIDA</b>
<b>Prog: WAY</b>
<b>Period: 2018-2022</b>
1. Adjumani <span style="color: green;">■</span>
2. Agago <span style="color: red;">■</span>
3. Amuru <span style="color: red;">■</span>
4. Arua <span style="color: green;">■</span>
5. Kitgum <span style="color: red;">■</span>
6. Lamwo <span style="color: red;">■</span>
7. Madi-Okollo <span style="color: green;">■</span>
8. Moyo <span style="color: green;">■</span>
9. Obongi <span style="color: green;">■</span>
10. Yumbe <span style="color: green;">■</span>

<b>Funder: UNFPA EF</b>
<b>Prog: EF</b>
<b>Period: 2019</b>
1. Kyegegwa <span style="color: orange;">■</span>

<b>Funder: CERF</b>
<b>Prog: CERF</b>
<b>Period: 2019</b>
1. Adjumani <span style="color: green;">■</span>
2. Arua <span style="color: green;">■</span>
3. Kikuube <span style="color: orange;">■</span>
4. Madi-Okollo <span style="color: green;">■</span>
5. Moyo <span style="color: green;">■</span>
6. Obongi <span style="color: green;">■</span>

<b>Funder: ADA</b>
<b>Prog: ADA</b>
<b>Period: 2019-2021</b>
1. Abim <span style="color: blue;">■</span>
2. Amudat <span style="color: blue;">■</span>
3. Kaabong <span style="color: blue;">■</span>
4. Kitgum <span style="color: orange;">■</span>
5. Moroto <span style="color: blue;">■</span>
6. Nakapiripirit <span style="color: blue;">■</span>
7. Napak <span style="color: blue;">■</span>
8. Omoro <span style="color: red;">■</span>
9. Otuke <span style="color: red;">■</span>

<b>Funder: Netherlands</b>
<b>Prog: NL (SRHR/GBV)</b>
<b>Period: 2019-2023</b>
1. Adjumani <span style="color: green;">■</span>
2. Agago <span style="color: red;">■</span>
3. Amuru <span style="color: red;">■</span>
4. Arua <span style="color: green;">■</span>
5. Koboko <span style="color: green;">■</span>
6. Lamwo <span style="color: red;">■</span>
7. Maracha <span style="color: green;">■</span>
8. Madi-Okollo <span style="color: green;">■</span>
9. Moyo <span style="color: green;">■</span>
10. Nebbi <span style="color: green;">■</span>
11. Obongi <span style="color: green;">■</span>
12. Pakwach <span style="color: green;">■</span>
13. Yumbe <span style="color: green;">■</span>
14. Zombo <span style="color: green;">■</span>

<b>Funder: Core Funds</b>
<b>Prog: Innovations</b>
<b>Period: 2020</b>
1. Bukedea <span style="color: blue;">■</span>
2. Bulambuli <span style="color: blue;">■</span>
3. Kitgum <span style="color: red;">■</span>
4. Kween <span style="color: orange;">■</span>
5. Lamwo <span style="color: black;">■</span>

<b>Funder: UN</b>
<b>Prog: UBRAF</b>
<b>Period: 2020</b>
1. Amudat <span style="color: blue;">■</span>
2. Bududa <span style="color: blue;">■</span>
3. Gulu <span style="color: red;">■</span>
4. Isingiro <span style="color: orange;">■</span>
5. Kampala <span style="color: black;">■</span>
6. Katakwi <span style="color: blue;">■</span>
7. Namayingo <span style="color: blue;">■</span>
8. Yumbe <span style="color: green;">■</span>

<b>Funder: SIDA</b>
<b>Prog: JPGBV</b>
<b>Period: 2019-2023</b>
1. Abim <span style="color: blue;">■</span>
2. Amuria <span style="color: green;">■</span>
3. Bundibugyo <span style="color: orange;">■</span>
4. Gulu <span style="color: red;">■</span>
5. Kaabong <span style="color: blue;">■</span>
6. Kaberamaido <span style="color: blue;">■</span>
7. Kampala <span style="color: black;">■</span>
8. Kiryandongo <span style="color: red;">■</span>
9. Kotido <span style="color: blue;">■</span>
10. Moroto <span style="color: blue;">■</span>
11. Nakapiripirit <span style="color: blue;">■</span>
12. Napak <span style="color: blue;">■</span>
13. Pader <span style="color: red;">■</span>
14. Yumbe <span style="color: green;">■</span>

<b>Funder: Joint Programme</b>
<b>Prog: GP-ECM</b>
<b>Period: 2019-2023</b>
1. Amudat <span style="color: blue;">■</span>
2. Amuria <span style="color: blue;">■</span>
3. Arua <span style="color: green;">■</span>
4. Bukwo <span style="color: blue;">■</span>
5. Kaberamaido <span style="color: blue;">■</span>
6. Kapchorwa <span style="color: blue;">■</span>
7. Kasese <span style="color: orange;">■</span>
8. Kitgum <span style="color: red;">■</span>
9. Kween <span style="color: blue;">■</span>
10. Moroto <span style="color: blue;">■</span>

<b>Funder: Joint Programme</b>
<b>Prog: PBF</b>
<b>Period: 2019-2021</b>
1. Kasese <span style="color: orange;">■</span>
2. Bundibugyo <span style="color: orange;">■</span>
3. Kampala <span style="color: black;">■</span>
4. Wakiso <span style="color: black;">■</span>

<b>Funder: SIDA</b>
<b>Prog: 2gether4SRHR</b>
<b>Period: 2018-2021</b>
1. Amudat <span style="color: blue;">■</span>
2. Bududa <span style="color: blue;">■</span>
3. Gulu <span style="color: red;">■</span>
4. Isingiro <span style="color: orange;">■</span>
5. Kampala <span style="color: black;">■</span>
6. Katakwi <span style="color: blue;">■</span>
7. Namayingo <span style="color: blue;">■</span>
8. Yumbe <span style="color: red;">■</span>

<b>Funder: DFID</b>
<b>Prog: RISE</b>
<b>Period: 2018-2022</b>
1. Abim <span style="color: blue;">■</span>
2. Adjumani <span style="color: green;">■</span>
3. Amudat <span style="color: blue;">■</span>
4. Arua <span style="color: green;">■</span>
5. Bundibugyo <span style="color: orange;">■</span>
6. Isingiro <span style="color: orange;">■</span>
7. Kaabong <span style="color: blue;">■</span>
8. Kamwenge <span style="color: orange;">■</span>
9. Karenga <span style="color: blue;">■</span>
10. Kikuube <span style="color: orange;">■</span>
11. Kiryandongo <span style="color: red;">■</span>
12. Koboko <span style="color: green;">■</span>
13. Kotido <span style="color: blue;">■</span>
14. Kyegegwa <span style="color: orange;">■</span>
15. Lamwo <span style="color: red;">■</span>
16. Moroto <span style="color: blue;">■</span>
17. Moyo <span style="color: green;">■</span>
18. Nabilatuk <span style="color: blue;">■</span>
19. Nakapiripirit <span style="color: blue;">■</span>
20. Napak <span style="color: blue;">■</span>
21. Obongi <span style="color: green;">■</span>
22. Yumbe <span style="color: green;">■</span>

UNFPA Core Funds	
Prog: UNFPA Supplies	
Period: 2020	
1. Abim	
2. Adjumani	
3. Amudat	
4. Amuria	
5. Amuru	
6. Apac	
7. Bududa	
8. Bukedea	
9. Bulambuli	
10. Bundibugyo	
11. Kaabong	
12. Kaberamaido	
13. Kanungu	
14. Katakwi	
15. Kibuku	
16. Kiryandongo	
17. Kitgum	
18. Kotido	
19. Kween	
20. Moroto	
21. Moyo	
22. Nakapiripirit	
23. Napak	
24. Ngora	
25. Yumbe	

Funder: MTN Foundation	
Prog: MTN	
Period: 2020	
1. Bulambuli	
2. Kalangala	
3. Kampala	
4. Ntoroko	
5. Packwach	

Funder: EU	
Prog: EU SPOTLIGHT	
Period: 2019 - 2022	
1. Amudat	
2. Arua	
3. Kampala	
4. Kasese	
5. Kitgum	
6. Kyegegwa	
7. Tororo	

Funder: Joint Programme	
Prog: JP - FGM	
Period: 2018 - 2021	
1. Amudat	
2. Bukwo	
3. Kapchorwa	
4. Kween	
5. Moroto	
6. Nakapiripirit	

Funder: Irish AID	
Prog: JUPSA (HIV/ SRHR)	
Period: 2018-2021	
1. Abim	
2. Amudat	
3. Kaabong	
4. Kotido	
5. Moroto	
6. Nakapiripirit	
7. Napak	

Key	
 Arua (Region)	
 Gulu (Region)	
 Western (Region)	
 Moroto (Region)	
 Kampala (Region)	

Programmes	
<b>PBF</b>	Peace Building Fund for Harnessing the Youth's Potential for Sustaining Peace In Uganda
<b>ADA</b>	Delivering an Integrated package of Rights in Karamoja and Northern Uganda
<b>JP FGM</b>	The UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme to Eliminate Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)
<b>GP-ECM</b>	The UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage
<b>EU SPOTLIGHT</b>	Spotlight Initiative to Eliminate VAWG, including SGBV and HP, in Uganda
<b>WAY</b>	Women, Adolescent and Youth (WAY) Rights and Empowerment Programme
<b>NL (SRHR/ GBV)</b>	Advancing Sexual Reproductive Health And Rights In The West Nile And Acholi Subregions In Uganda
<b>JPGBV</b>	Joint Programme On Gender Based Violence In Uganda (UNFPA - UNWOMEN)
<b>RISE</b>	Reducing high fertility rates and Improving Sexual and Reproductive Health Outcomes in Uganda (RISE)
<b>2gether4SRHR</b>	Joint UN Programme on SRHR/HIV & GBV Integration
<b>CERF</b>	Provision of life saving sexual and reproductive health services including emergency obstetrical and new born care and gender-based violence response for refugees in Uganda
<b>EF</b>	Lifesaving quality services for sexual and reproductive health care for DRC refugees in Uganda
<b>JUPSA (HIV/ SRHR)</b>	The United Nations Joint Support Programme on HIV/AIDS (JUPSA)
<b>MTN</b>	Improve the functionality of Health Centers IVs in 5 selected districts of Uganda through equipping and refurbishment theatres and Labour wards





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