Banga afayo
SHOW YOU CARE

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

CHANGING LIVES
CHANGING COMMUNITIES

www.bangaafayo.org

MESSAGE FROM TEAM LEADER

The 2023 Annual Report of BaNgaAfayo highlights a year marked by significant achievements through three key projects: Truth Design Academy, the Her Voice project and the PEAK initiative. The Her Voice project, funded by the Global Network of Young People Living with HIV, empowered Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) living with HIV by providing them with essential knowledge, attitudes, and skills to reduce HIV infections, combat gender-based violence (GBV), and improve their sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). Alongside, the PEAK initiative, supported by GFC, focused on fostering the educational development of children aged 6 to 12. Through this initiative BaNgaAfayo addressed learning gaps by providing literacy programs, after-school tutoring, supported the emotional and social well-being of children and reached over 500 children with scholastic materials.

Our successes in 2023 were made possible through the collaboration with the Kayunga District Local Government, partners, and funders whose support was instrumental in implementing these projects.
The commitment of our stakeholders and the active participation of community members have led to substantial improvements in the lives of young people. Looking ahead, BaNgaAfayo Initiative Uganda is dedicated to building on these successes, leveraging lessons learned, and strengthening partnerships to continue making a positive impact in the lives of young people.

This report documents our achievements, challenges, and future directions, serving as a testament to the collective efforts of all involved.

Joseph Ddiba
Team Leader
Ba Nga Afayo Initiative Uganda

WHO WE ARE

BaNgaAfayo! Translated? It means, "Show you care" Reason being that if it's too much to ask that people become part of solving a problem, can they at least show that they care? That in itself would require action!

Ba Nga Afayo Initiative Uganda is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the holistic development of under-privileged and marginalized children, youth, and young women in rural communities of Uganda. Our Cradle-to-Career (C2C) approach of comprehensive services support children and youth at every stage. Through coordinated strategic programs in education, economic development, public health and advocacy, girls' empowerment, and sports for development, we strive to mitigate the devastating effects of poverty and HIV, paving the way for sustainable, lifelong success and economic mobility.

OUR VISION

A world without poverty where all children and adolescents are empowered, have meaningful opportunities to grow and learn so that they may reach their full potential.

OUR MISSION

To bring real and lasting change to children, youth and young women living in poverty through holistic multidimensional programs in education, economic development and public health.

CORE PROGRAMS

EDUCATION
Education is key to breaking the poverty cycle. We seek to increase access to education, improve the quality of teachers and improve child well-being.

HEALTH & WELLNESS
Our programs develop children and young people's capacity to engage in positive behaviors to nurture their well-being and know their rights.

CHILD PROTECTION
We believe every child deserves to be protected from violence, neglect, abuse so that to live a full life and have the chance to live to their fullest potential.

GIRL'S EMPOWERMENT
We believe confidence grows as children especially girls develop leadership skills, understand social responsibility and take an active role in their community.

SPORTS FOR CHANGE
We take a holistic approach to developing young people and their skills in bringing about positive change through our multi sports programs.

TECHNOLOGY & EMPLOYMENT
Our Employment and Technology Programs prepare rural youth for careers in STEM, design and multimedia fields.

OUR IMPACT PARTNERS

To fulfill our mission, Ba Nga Afayo Initiative Uganda collaborated with a diverse range of partners in 2023 who made invaluable contributions and provided essential support to our work. Their commitment and generosity have been instrumental in helping us reach our goals and create lasting impact in 2023.

global fund for children

THE GLOBAL FUND

HER VOICE

SportsWorks Int'l Ngo

AFRICAN LIBRARY PROJECT

SPORT FOR SOCIAL CHANGE NETWORK

Given Gain Since 2001

GlobalGiving

GLOBAL NETWORK OF YOUNG PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV

IN 2023

18,530

BENEFICIARIES

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01 COMMUNITY CENTER

One community center where kids get life-changing benefits, like medical care, tutoring, life skills and more.

05 AREAS OF INTERVATION

Programs focused on health, education, employment, sports and empowerment to break the cycle of poverty.

2023 HIGHLIGHTS

4,542

Children and youth from poverty stricken families benefited from our annual back to school program.

50,000+

Books and other school supplies were distributed to make sure children from poor families stay in school.

2,044

Children and youth participated in our play-based programs, thanks to our friends at Global Fund For Children

08

Out of school children were successfully enrolled back into formal education, providing them with an opportunity to gain the skills and knowledge necessary for their personal and academic development.

2023 HIGHLIGHTS

522

Girls increased their understanding of health issues affecting them, their families, and their communities.

40

Peer educators were trained to become change agents within their communities on issues regarding adolescent health & child abuse.

1,543

Girls participated in mentorship activities that build their learning, skills, and behaviors that increase confidence

55

Students at our own Truth Design Academy gained the design and coding skills they need to make an impact and prepare for tech, design and multimedia careers.

TRUTH DESIGN ACADEMY

Empowering Future Leaders in Tech, Design, and Multimedia

Truth Design Academy is an innovative social enterprise founded by Ba Nga Afayo Initiative Uganda, to provide hands-on technical training and economic opportunities for young people from underserved communities in Uganda. Through its programs, Truth Design Academy aims to empower Uganda's next generation of entrepreneurs and leaders by equipping them with practical skills in STEM, Design, and Multimedia.

Truth Design Academy offers specialized courses in high-demand fields such as graphic design, video production, 3D animation, digital marketing, and coding. The academy emphasizes experiential learning, blending technical skills with real-world projects and entrepreneurship training to prepare students for sustainable careers and economic independence.

OUR IMPACT IN 2023

85% of graduates are self-employed after one year, demonstrating the lasting impact of our program in fostering entrepreneurial skills and independence.

- Over 50 young people have been placed into employment, marking a significant contribution to Uganda's growing tech, design, and multimedia sectors.
- 70% of our students are girls from underserved communities, ensuring that we are not only empowering young people but also advancing gender equality in fields where women are underrepresented.

WHAT WE OFFER

Through our comprehensive training program, students gain essential design and coding skills. They also have the opportunity to:

- Get exposure to real-world jobs and hands-on experience.
- Meet industry leaders and professionals in tech, design, and multimedia.

LOOKING AHEAD

As we continue to grow, our commitment to developing skilled, self-reliant young people remains unwavering. Through innovation and collaboration, Truth Design Academy is shaping the next generation of leaders who will drive positive change in Uganda and beyond.

EMPOWERED YOUTH WITH MARKETABLE SKILLS

Skill Development: Participants gained valuable technical skills in STEM, Design, and Multimedia, equipping them for success in both local and global markets.

Industry Readiness: Graduates of the program were well-prepared for employment or entrepreneurship in their fields, significantly enhancing their employability.

INCREASED ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

The technical skills acquired through the academy enabled participants to secure better-paying jobs, improving their financial stability and reducing poverty.

50+

YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE BEEN PLACED INTO EMPLOYMENT.

70%

OF OUR STUDENTS ARE GIRLS FROM UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES

CULTIVATION OF FUTURE LEADERS

Many graduates from Truth Design Academy became role models within their communities, inspiring younger generations to pursue education and careers in STEM, design, and multimedia.

TRUTH
20
DEMY

PARTNERSHIP TO EDUCATE ALL KIDS (PEAK)

Global Fund for Children launched the Partnership to Educate All Kids (PEAK) initiative to support community-based organizations that are helping children who have experienced pandemic-related education disruptions access and thrive in learning environments that prepare them for future success.

In Kayunga district where BaNgaAfayo works, children don't have the opportunity to receive an education. Some don't have resources like books or uniforms, leaving children to fall behind without the support to catch up. Youth drop out of school to support their families and never go back and the entire school systems are understaffed, failing to provide adequate education to the children.

It's upon this background that BaNgaAfayo was identified to be part of PEAK initiative to address education barriers and to help Out-of-School Children and primary students from underserved communities who are lagging behind in school to develop their full potential through personalized, age-appropriate teaching methodologies.

BACK TO SCHOOL CHARITY DRIVE

This program ensures that children from low-income families in our area receive the tools they need to succeed in school. This includes backpacks stuffed with grade level supplies for children like bags, pencils, bags, colors etc. plus sanitary towels for teenage girls in our programs and those from poverty stricken families.

PRIMARY EDUCATION FOR OUT OF SCHOOL CHILDREN (OOSC)

Through play-based methodologies, BaNgaAfayo teachers stimulate the learning process for successfully achieving the next stage of education. The program was designed to help OOSC gain sufficient knowledge and skills to merge with the formal educational systems. When the child reaches age appropriate level, BaNgaAfayo helps them enroll into school with ongoing evaluation of student reading, writing, and mathematical skills.

25

OUT OF SCHOOL CHILDREN REACHED

08

OUT OF SCHOOL CHILDREN WERE SUCCESSFULLY ENROLLED BACK INTO FORMAL EDUCATION

PEAK IMPACT

The Back to School Program has provided essential supplies to 4,542 students, reducing dropout rates and supporting academic success for children from low-income families. Through play-based and personalized teaching, out-of-school children have been integrated into the education system, developing critical life skills. The PEAK initiative has fostered creative learning, enrolling over 200 children back into primary school.

PEAK CONVENTION

Global Fund for Children organized PEAK convention in Uganda in July 2023 to connect organizations in Africa that are helping children who have experienced pandemic-related education disruptions access and thrive in learning environments that prepare them for future success. The meeting provided GFC partners from sub-Saharan Africa with an opportunity to exchange ideas for making learning more creative and joyful.

At the convening, GFC partners identified some of the benefits of learning through play, at the same time highlighting how it enables children to reach their full potential i.e.it stimulates creativity and innovative thinking in children that's to say; Play allows children to harness their imagination, think outside the box, use anything they find in their surroundings, and create their own fun, Play promotes independence and allows children to experiment while at the same time recognizing their self-worth, It encourages more children to participate among others.

Joseph Ddiba. The Team Leader of Ba Nga Afayo Initiative Uganda got a chance to share with the partners the vital role individual donors have played in the organization growth, urging others to nurture these relationships for impactful change. In his words he said

"I believe that cultivating strong relationships with individual donors is essential for any organization looking to create lasting change and transform lives. When we connect on a personal level, we not only secure much-needed funding but also build a community of passionate advocates for our cause"

HER VOICE FUND (Year 2)

The HER Voice Project is implemented by Y+ Global, with support from the Global Fund and ViiV Healthcare Positive Action, to strengthen the meaningful engagement and leadership of AGYW in decision making spaces with the aim of reducing HIV incidence and improving our broader health, wellbeing and rights. Despite the significant gains in the HIV response achieved over the last 40 years, AGYW continue to be disproportionately affected by HIV. In Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA), AGYW aged 15-24 years account for 68 percent of young people who are living with HIV (YPLHIV) and are 2.5 times more likely than our male peers to acquire HIV infection. In 2019, AGYW accounted for 26 percent of new HIV infections in the region.

AGYW in Kayunga district, Uganda, continuously face significant barriers to accessing comprehensive sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services and are at increased risk of HIV infection and other health risks. Limited access to quality sexual and reproductive health education and services, coupled with social and cultural norms that restrict AGYW's participation and empowerment, pose significant challenges to improving health outcomes for AGYW in the district.

With support from Y+ Global, BaNgaAfayo implemented the Her Voice Project with the focus on increasing access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services, improving AGYW's empowerment and participation, and creating an enabling environment that supports AGYW's health and well-being. BaNgaAfayo intends to work together to build a strong network of support, engage with policymakers and decision-makers, and empower AGYW to participate in decision-making processes that affect their lives and advocate for their rights and needs at regional and national level.

PROJECT GOAL FOR YEAR TWO

To increase AGYW's participation and leadership in their communities to advocate for their rights and needs at regional and national level.

HER VOICE FUND OBJECTIVES

1. Increase access to comprehensive SRH services for AGYW in Kayunga by strengthening partnerships with healthcare providers and advocating for supportive policies.

2. Empower AGYW by providing leadership and advocacy training, creating opportunities for participation, and establishing safe spaces for sharing experiences.

3. Reduce HIV and other SRH risks by advocating for better access to prevention and SRHR services.

A REFLECTION ON ASRHR SITUATION

23.3% of all Ugandans are adolescents. Uganda has one of the youngest population in the world with 55% (17.6 M) of 32 million Ugandans below 15yrs. More than one of every four people worldwide is between ages 10 and 24. 46% of adolescent females and 42% of adolescent males aged 15 -19 in Uganda are sexually active. However, presently adolescents are starting sex at an early age compared to adults at their time. Males start sexual activity later than females. Girls on average have their first sex at 17 yrs. compared to boys who start at 18 yrs. By 15 years of age, 22.6 % of females have had sexual intercourse while by 18 years, 67 % have had it. Education plays an important role in delaying or changing the interval at which an adolescent has sex. In Uganda, studies show that 10% of the girls aged 15-19 years have sex with men who are 10 years or more their senior and that half of them believe it is normal. In such cases negotiating for delay of sex or condom use is very difficult.

As much as adolescents and young people 10-24 years old, account for about 34% of the population, a vast majority of these young people are still faced with a range of sexual and reproductive health challenges, including high rates of teenage pregnancy potentially causing unsafe abortion, HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs). Early sexual debut, Early marriages, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), were reported as some of the major causes of SRH

challenges among young people. A larger proportion (46%) of young women and 36% young men aged 15-19 years were reported to have ever had sex, with majority of them having their first sexual debut before the age of 15 years (UDHS 2016). On the contrary the early sexual debut was not being accompanied by contraceptive use. The UDHS 2011 report indicated that among the 15 to 19 years old, only 6.8% were using a modern contraceptive method. Unmet need for family planning was still very high estimated to be at 31% for women aged 15-19. The appalling ASRHR situation had consistently been exacerbated generally, by poor health system and limited access to appropriate sexual and reproductive health information for young people.

Although there were substantial efforts from government and CSO to address ASRH in Kampala and other central regional districts, the areas still experienced widening ASRHR challenges. The state of public health facilities, including lack of trained health workers to deliver youth friendly services; chronic shortage of medicine for SRH, poor health infrastructure was evident and needed more intervention. Furthermore, limited involvement of parents and community leaders in ASRHR programming, as well as some restrictive policies continued to affect ASRHR interventions. Consequently, coverage of YFS was very limited.

IMPLEMENTED PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Spreading Awareness Through Creative IEC Materials

In an impactful effort to educate and empower adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) in Kayunga District, BaNgaAfayo undertook a creative campaign to distribute informative, educational, and communicative (IEC) materials. Over 500 vibrant flyers, posters, and brochures were carefully crafted with key messages on advocacy, HIV, and SRHR.

These materials were disseminated to more than 300 AGYW both in and out of school, ensuring a broad reach. By leveraging engaging illustrations and clear, concise information, the campaign successfully heightened awareness and inspired proactive health and advocacy efforts among the young women. This initiative not only provided valuable knowledge but also fostered a supportive environment for AGYW to make informed decisions about their health and rights.

Radio Talk Show

We organized a radio talk show in collaboration with Sauti FM, a local station in Kayunga District. This initiative aimed to empower adolescent girls and young women (AGYW), particularly those living with HIV, by providing them with knowledge, attitudes, and skills to reduce HIV infections, gender-based violence (GBV), and improve their sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) outcomes.

The show featured 10 AGYW from Nakaziba, Wankyairaki, and Wantante villages, along with representatives from the District Committee on Adolescent Health (DICAH) and the District Community Development Officer (DCDO). The event provided a platform for these young women to share their experiences, challenges, and aspirations, thereby increasing awareness and understanding of SRHR issues among the wider community.

During the broadcast, representatives such as Namaganda Arisat, Mary Dina, and Prosy highlighted various issues. Namaganda discussed the challenges in accessing SRH services due to distance and transport costs, Prosy emphasized the need for equal opportunities in decision-making processes for AGYW, and Mary Dina courageously addressed the stigma surrounding HIV.

The DCDO and DICAH representatives discussed topics like sex education, health services for women, economic empowerment, and gender equality. The interactive segments allowed for community engagement, with listeners calling in to ask questions, share experiences, and seek advice. This initiative amplified the voices of AGYW, increased awareness of SRHR issues, empowered participants with information and support networks, and fostered community dialogue and solidarity. Despite technical difficulties and limited airtime, the talk show effectively promoted gender equality and social inclusion in the targeted villages, inspiring hope and resilience among the participants.

Consultative Meeting On Prioritizing Adolescent Girls' Sexual And Reproductive Health And Rights (Srhr) In Kayunga District

BaNgaAfayo organized a consultative meeting at Kayunga District Hall to address the SRH of adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) in Kayunga District. The meeting aimed to engage local government officials, policymakers, and key stakeholders in prioritizing AGYW's SRHR needs. The meeting focused on promoting a supportive environment for AGYW's health and participation in decision-making, advocating for their inclusion in the district health budget, and challenging negative social norms. Attendees included district health, education, gender, and youth officers, community health workers, teachers, organizations working on adolescent health, AGYW, religious and traditional leaders, social influencers, and media representatives.

The consultative meeting featured presentations of evidence-based data on the challenges AGYW face in accessing SRH services, discussions to identify strategic actions and policy recommendations, and success stories from other regions. Interactive sessions were held to build consensus on the importance of resource allocation for AGYW's SRHR needs and establish a framework for ongoing collaboration between BaNgaAfayo, government bodies, and stakeholders. The event increased awareness and understanding among stakeholders about the importance of prioritizing AGYW's SRHR, led to concrete policy recommendations for integrating these concerns into the district health budget, and strengthened partnerships and commitments to support initiatives aimed at improving AGYW's SRH. This meeting underscored the importance of sustained efforts to ensure AGYW's voices are heard and their rights upheld in policy-making and implementation processes.

Capacity Building For 50 Agyw: Empowering Decision-Making And Srhr Advocacy

Under the Her Voice Fund we organized a one-day training for AGYW. The training aimed to empower 50 AGYW with the necessary skills and knowledge to engage effectively in decision-making processes and advocate for comprehensive SRHR services. Held at the BaNgaAfayo Community Center in Nakaziba village, the training gathered 52 AGYW aged 10-24(young mothers, AGYW living with HIV/AIDs, pregnant adolescents) from Nakaziba, Wankyairaki, Wantante, and Wajanzi villages, ensuring equitable access through careful participant selection.

The training was designed to be interactive, featuring discussions, group exercises, and outdoor learning sessions. Participants engaged in breakaway sessions and group work, discussing topics such as advocacy, lobbying, leadership skills, decision-making, and SRHR needs and services. The environment fostered active participation, with AGYW presenting their group discussions to peers, enhancing their confidence and understanding. The training successfully empowered 52 AGYW to advocate for their rights, with post-training assessments showing increased confidence and knowledge in SRHR among 45 participants. Testimonials from participants like Awori Becky and Naluyima Mary highlighted the training's impact, with many expressing newfound confidence in advocating for comprehensive SRHR services and making informed decisions about their health.

Despite challenges such as resistance from community members and the complexity of new terminologies for some participants, the training achieved significant successes. Overcoming these obstacles involved continuous community engagement, translating materials into local languages, and fostering collaboration with local organizations for sustainable advocacy efforts. Key learnings emphasized the importance of regular monitoring and evaluation, as well as the need for ongoing mentorship and support for AGYW. To enhance future activities, recommendations

included strengthening partnerships with local organizations and providing continuous mentorship to ensure lasting change and effective advocacy.

Peer-To-Peer Awareness And Education On Hiv/Aids And Srhr For Agyw

We organized a peer-to-peer education activity to address the sexual and reproductive health needs of Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) in Kayunga District. The initiative aimed to empower AGYW, particularly those living with HIV, to become community leaders and advocates for their health rights. This activity supports the project's and government's objectives of improving SRHR services, increasing AGYW's participation in decision-making, and challenging negative social norms. The one-day event, held at Blessed Child Nursery and Primary School in Nalumuli, involved 20 trained peer educators who provided age-appropriate information on HIV, GBV, SRHR, teenage pregnancy, and menstruation to 80 adolescent girls aged 10-17 from both primary and lower secondary levels.

The interactive sessions included breakaway discussions, outdoor learning, group exercises, and information sharing. The girls, divided into four groups, engaged in discussions and presentations to reinforce their learning. The project officer from BaNgaAfayo commended the peer educators and the school for their participation and distributed reusable sanitary pads to the AGYW. The senior woman teacher from Blessed Care Nursery and Primary School expressed gratitude for the initiative and encouraged the girls to apply what they learned and stay in school. The activity successfully disseminated comprehensive knowledge, fostered active participation, and empowered 20 peer educators. It highlighted the effectiveness of peer-to-peer education in promoting behavior change and emphasized the need for continued partnerships and support for AGYW.

AGYW Leadership Mentorship And Coaching Session 1

BaNgaAfayo Initiative Uganda organized a one-day Leadership Mentorship and Coaching session aimed at empowering 50 adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) from Kayunga District. Session one featured Human Rights Lawyer and the Founder of GILO Young Positives Foundation Gloria Nawanyaga, who shared her personal journey how she has lived with HIV for over 24years, challenges faced & how she overcame stigma. She emphasized the importance of SRHR advocacy, self-worth, and responsible decision-making. The session included interactive discussions, a debate on AGYW's involvement in healthcare decisions, and practical leadership training, fostering confidence and a sense of agency among the participants.

Key achievements of the session included enhanced awareness of SRHR, increased confidence and empowerment among the girls, and the development of practical leadership skills. Despite challenges such as sustaining the momentum and overcoming stigma surrounding SRHR and HIV, the activity highlighted the importance of continuous support and advocacy. The mentorship session successfully instilled a positive mindset and responsibility in the AGYW, encouraging them to take control of their futures and advocate for their health rights.

AGYW Leadership Mentorship And Coaching Session 2

Session 2 was led by Mayengo Bruno, a youth representative from the District Committee on Adolescent Health (DICAH), the program included interactive discussions, group exercises, and presentations. The session focused on practical learning experiences, mindset development, goal setting, resilience building, and self-esteem enhancement. The AGYW were later divided into 3 working groups to discuss among themselves and accomplish the tasks assigned based on the sessions discussed by the facilitator. These group discussions were followed by a presentation from each group summarizing the key takeaways and insights gathered from the sessions. The presentations also highlighted actionable steps for fostering a positive mindset, embracing leadership qualities, and applying these learnings in their daily lives. The session successfully equipped AGYW with practical leadership tools and fostered a positive outlook on life. Participants actively engaged in activities designed to inspire personal growth and leadership qualities. Achievements included valuable insights into mindset transformation, leadership development, and actionable knowledge for enhancing their lives. The interactive nature of the program ensured that AGYW left feeling more empowered and confident in advocating for their health rights and needs.

ENHANCED LEADERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION

Increased opportunities for AGYW to participate in leadership roles within their communities, resulting in greater empowerment and a stronger voice in decisions that impact their lives.

ENGAGEMENT WITH POLICYMAKERS

Increased engagement of policymakers and decision-makers in addressing the unique needs and challenges faced by AGYW, leading to better health and well-being outcomes, including reduced rates of unintended pregnancies, maternal and infant mortality, and sexually transmitted infections.

300+

AGYW ARE NOW MORE CONFIDENT IN ACCESSING COMPREHENSIVE SRHR

211

AGYW REPORTED SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENTS IN THEIR KNOWLEDGE ABOUT SRHR

REDUCED STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION

A reduction in stigma and discrimination was achieved for over 200 AGYW, particularly those living with HIV, fostering a more inclusive and supportive community environment. school.

USA

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