

HER VOICE



HER VOICE FUND REPORT

2023



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ACRONYMS

AGYW:	Adolescent Girls and Young Women
ASRH:	Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health
HIV:	Human immunodeficiency Virus
AIDs:	Acquired immunodeficiency Syndrome
FP:	Family Planning
GBV:	Gender Based Violence
BaNgaAfayo:	BaNgaAfayo Initiative Uganda
RH:	Reproductive Health
SRH:	Sexual and Reproductive Health
SRHR:	Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights
YFS:	Youth Friendly Services



**Capacity
building for
AGYW**



BACKGROUND OF THE ACTIVITY

BaNgaAfayo Initiative Uganda is a non-profit organization based in Kayunga District, dedicated to bringing lasting change to children, adolescents, and young people affected by poverty and HIV. The organization focuses on various interventions, including education, public health, skills development, and advocacy.

BaNgaAfayo aims to improve the sexual and reproductive health of adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) in Kayunga District, with a particular emphasis on those living with HIV. Through the HER Voice Fund, the organization Advocates for comprehensive SRHR services, empowers AGYW to engage in decision-making processes, and advocates for an enabling environment that supports their health and well-being.

The training described in this report is part of BaNgaAfayo's efforts to equip AGYW with the necessary knowledge and skills to engage effectively in decision-making processes.

OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTIVITY

1. Improve AGYW's empowerment and participation in decision-making processes that affect their lives in Kayunga District.
2. To reduce the risk of HIV infection and other sexual and reproductive health risks among Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) in Kayunga District by advocating for increased access to comprehensive HIV prevention and sexual and reproductive health

rights (SRHR) services in the district.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY

The one-day training organized under the HER Voice Fund aimed to build the capacity of 50 AGYW by providing them with training and skills development opportunities. The training took place at BaNgaAfayo Community Center, in Nakaziba village. The training brought together 52 AGYW between 10-24 years from 4 communities that is; Nakaziba, Wankyairaki, Wantante and Wajanzi. These participants were disaggregated by sex, cadre, community/village, and age to ensure equitable access to the training.

The training environment was interactive, allowing participants to engage in discussions, share experiences, and learn from experts in the field.

The activity included interactive break away sessions & discussions, outdoor learning sessions, group exercises, and information sharing sessions.

After each learning session, the AGYWs were divided into 4 groups and given group work to discuss and make presentations. Each group was given 2 questions to discuss among themselves and present it to the audience/ their fellow peers.

Topics covered included; Understanding Effective Advocacy, Lobbying, Leadership skills, decision-making, SRHR needs, and services for AGYW



ACHIEVEMENTS

The activity achieved several successes and results in line with the planned objectives;

The training empowered 52 AGYW to actively advocate for their rights and needs. A post-training assessment revealed that 45 of AGYW reported feeling more confident in their ability to advocate for their rights. Furthermore, the training significantly increased the knowledge of AGYW regarding SRHR needs and services, with 40 of participants demonstrating improved knowledge in this area.

Testimonials from participants highlighted the impact of the activity and the project on their lives. One participant stated, "The training provided by BaNgaAfayo under Her Voice project has empowered me to speak up for my rights and the rights of other girls in my community. "I now feel more confident in advocating for comprehensive SRHR services."

These testimonials demonstrate the tangible benefits of the activity and its positive impact on the AGYW beneficiaries.

QUOTES FROM PARTICIPANTS

Awori Becky: "I learned valuable leadership skills during this activity. I believe I can make a difference in my community and contribute to reducing HIV infections and gender-based violence."

Naluyima Mary: "The Her Voice project has given me the confidence to speak up for my rights and make informed decisions about my sexual and reproductive health."

CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED

1. Resistance to change: Some community members and stakeholders have been resistant to the changes advocated by the project, particularly regarding comprehensive SRHR services. Overcoming this challenge required ongoing community engagement, dialogue, and awareness campaigns to address misconceptions and promote understanding.
2. Sustainability: Ensuring the sustainability of the advocacy efforts beyond the training period posed a challenge. To address this, we noted that it is important to establish mechanisms for continued support, mentorship, and follow-up with the trained

AGYW, as well as fostering collaboration with local organizations and institutions to sustain the advocacy agenda.

3. Most participants were new and school dropouts and most information and terminologies were new to them and hard to understand; for instance; meaning of advocacy; SRHR, GBV among others. We addressed this by translating the presentations in the local languages that they can easily understand

KEY LEARNINGS

1. There is need for regular monitoring and evaluation of the training activity. This can help identify challenges as they arise and allow for prompt adjustments.
2. There is need for Collaboration with local partners, community leaders, and other relevant organizations. This can help overcome challenges and strengthen the implementation process.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Strengthen partnerships with local organizations to secure sustainable resources for future activities.
2. Provide ongoing mentorship and support to AGYW to enhance their capacity to create lasting change.

Facilitators/Coordinators: The activity was facilitated by an external youth trainer & BaNgaAfayo staff members





**Peer-to-Peer
Awareness & Education
on HIV/AIDS and SRHR**

BACKGROUND OF THE ACTIVITY

The activity was organized by BaNgaAfayo Initiative Uganda under the Her Voice Fund to address the sexual and reproductive health needs of Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) in Kayunga District.

BaNgaAfayo aims to empower AGYW, particularly those living with HIV, to become leaders in their communities and advocate for their health rights. The activity aligns with the project and government objectives of improving SRHR services, increasing AGYW's participation in decision-making processes, and challenging negative social norms.

OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTIVITY

1. Improve AGYW's empowerment and participation in decision-making processes in Kayunga District.
2. Reduce the risk of HIV infection and other SRHR risks among AGYW in Kayunga District by advocating for increased access to comprehensive HIV prevention and SRHR services.

Description of the Activity

The one day peer-to-peer activity took place at Blessed Child Nursery and primary school in Nalumuli which acted as the center for the activity. The peer to peer activity was conducted by 20 AGYW (peer educators) who were trained as peer educators and equipped with the right age appropriate information on HIV and SRHR.

The activity targeted 80 Adolescent girls between 10-17 years both primary and lower secondary level. 30 girls between the ages of 10-14 years were from the hosting school, 30 from Nalumuli secondary school between 14-17 years in senior 1 & 2 and 20 out of school AGYWs including young mothers and those living with HIV.

80 adolescent girls were equipped with age appropriate knowledge/information on HIV, GBV, SRHR, teenage pregnancy, menstruation etc. by their fellow peers aiming to empower them to take action and also make informed decisions and life choices.

The activity included interactive break away sessions & discussions, outdoor learning sessions, group exercises, and information sharing sessions.

After the learning sessions, the girls were divided into 4 groups by the peer educators, and given group work to discuss and make presentations. Each group was given 3 questions to discuss among themselves and presented it to their fellow peers.

At the end of the group work presentations, The project officer, BaNgaAfayo initiative Uganda thanked the peer educators for the amazing work done, thanked the school for hosting the school outreach and appreciated the girls who turned up for the activity. Then distributed reusable sanitary pads to the AGYWs.

Then the senior woman teacher from Blessed Care Nursery and primary school was then invited to give closing remarks. She started by thanking BaNgaAfayo for the opportunity brought to their school through Her Voice Project. Went ahead to thank the head master who brought BaNgaAfayo, thanked the peer educators for the wonderful work and the girls for turning up for the activity. She concluded by Advising the adolescent girls to keep in mind whatever was taught, stay in school and make informed decisions.

ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Comprehensive knowledge dissemination: The activity successfully equipped the 80 adolescent girls with age-appropriate knowledge and information on important topics such as HIV, gender-based violence (GBV), SRHR, teenage pregnancy, and menstruation.
2. The activity successfully incorporated various interactive elements, including breakaway sessions, discussions, outdoor learning sessions, group exercises, and information sharing sessions which fostered active participation and engagement among the participants.
3. 20 peer educators reported feeling more confident in their ability to educate their fellow peers
4. We successfully organized a peer-to-peer activity: The activity was successfully organized at Blessed Child Nursery and Primary School in Nalumuli.
5. The peer educators played a crucial role in facilitating the activity and delivering the necessary knowledge to their fellow peers.
6. Group work and presentations encouraged collaboration, critical thinking, and effective communication among the participants





QUOTES FROM PARTICIPANTS

Nakafuko Rose: "Before the project I was shy, I couldn't speak for myself, I was fearing to go to the hospital when it came to issues concerning SRH, but through Her Voice Project, I now feel comfortable talking about SRH issues, have been empowered enough that can I can speak up when it comes to advocating for our rights, I can now stand in front of my fellow peers and educate them, am informed enough to make informed decisions and I know I have a right over my body".

CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED

No challenges encountered

KEY LEARNINGS

There is need to know that, Peer-to-peer education is an effective approach for empowering AGYW and promoting behavior change.

There is need to know that, Involving local partners and community contributions enhances the sustainability of activities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Strengthen partnerships with local organizations to secure sustainable resources for future activities.
2. Provide ongoing mentorship and support to AGYW peer educators to enhance their capacity to create lasting change.
3. Advocate for youth-friendly health services to ensure the specific needs of AGYW are met.

Facilitators/Coordinators: The activity was facilitated by peer educators, project officer and other BaNgaAfayo staff members.

Leadership Mentorship & Coaching for AGYW



DAY ONE

Date: 28th/10/2023
Venue: BaNgaAfayo Community Center
Location: Nakaziba Village
Organizer: Ba Nga Afayo Initiative Uganda (BaNgaAfayo)

BACKGROUND

Ba Nga Afayo Initiative Uganda (BaNgaAfayo) is a none profit organisation based in Kayunga District that is working to bring real lasting change to children, adolescents and young people who are struggling with effects of poverty and HIV through coordinated interventions like Education, Public health, skills development and advocacy.

BaNgaAfayo is dedicated to improving the sexual and reproductive health of adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) in Kayunga District, with a particular focus on those living with HIV. Through the HER Voice Fund, the organization is working to provide comprehensive SRHR services, empower AGYW to participate in decision-making processes, and create an enabling environment that supports their health and well-being. BaNgaAfayo challenges negative social norms and advocates for SRHR issues to be prioritized in the district health budget, while providing AGYW with the knowledge, attitude, and skills needed to reduce HIV infections and gender-based violence.

It's upon this background that BaNgaAfayo has organized a one day Leadership Mentorship and coaching for AGYW: Providing trained AGYW with mentorship and coaching opportunities that enable them to learn from experienced leaders, build their confidence, and develop their leadership skills.

OBJECTIVES

1. Improve AGYW's empowerment and participation in decision-making processes that affect their lives in Kayunga District.
2. To provide AGYW with practical leadership skills through mentorship and coaching sessions.
3. To enhance the confidence and self-esteem of AGYW, enabling them to effectively advocate for their health rights and needs.

Number and nature of Participants: A total of 50 AGYW participated in the activity and these included; young mothers, those living with HIV, and other adolescents coming from 3 villages that is; Nakaziba, Wankyairaki and Wantente.

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

BaNgaAfayo organized a one-day Leadership Mentorship and Coaching program for AGYW. The goal of this initiative was to provide trained AGYW with mentorship and coaching opportunities that would enable them to learn from experienced leaders, build their confidence, and develop their leadership skills. Our guest speaker for the day was; Ms. Gloria Nawanyaga a distinguished Human Rights Lawyer and the Founder of GILO Young Positives Foundation.

Ms. Gloria, graced the event as the guest speaker. She shared her personal journey, emphasizing the importance of open discussions about the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). She encouraged the girls to freely express their thoughts and knowledge about the virus.



Gloria's wise words, with a special emphasis on "knowing our bodies and standing up for our rights", deeply touched the girls. It gave them a feeling of strength, responsibility, and self-worth. Her advice became a guiding light for these young women, inspiring them to move ahead in life with confidence, purpose, and a strong focus on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and Advocacy.

She conveyed, "Parents and teachers may guide you, but remember, the ultimate decisions you make will shape your future." Gloria emphasized the significance of intimacy, highlighting that it should occur at the right time and stage of life. She reminded the girls that their choices bear personal consequences, and urged them to take responsibility for their actions.

Gloria's insightful words resonated deeply with the AGYW, instilling a sense of empowerment, responsibility, and self-worth. Her guidance serves as a beacon for these young women, inspiring them to navigate their lives with confidence and purpose.

KEY MESSAGES FROM GLORIA NAWANYAGA

1. Strive to be responsible and respectable in the future. Carry yourselves with dignity, value, and beauty."
2. I am beautiful, I am important, I am not ordinary, and I will be a responsible lady in the future."
3. Leaders define self-acceptance and self-love, passing it on to others for a better future."
4. Choose to live a positive, healthy, happy life. Even in the face of challenges, choose happiness."



AFTERNOON SESSION

In the afternoon session, as part of the Leadership Mentorship and Coaching for AGYW, an engaging debate took center stage. The topic at hand was the involvement of Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) in decisions about their health and well-being. Those in favor passionately argued that including AGYW in these decisions would empower them, leading to better health outcomes and a greater sense of ownership over their well-being.

On the opposing side, it was asserted that the current methods of decision-making in healthcare already adequately address the needs of AGYW, and that additional involvement might not yield significant improvements. This debate served as a platform for AGYW to voice their perspectives, fostering critical thinking and a sense of agency in matters concerning their health.

The outcomes of the debate were profound. It not only allowed AGYW to express their opinions on a matter directly affecting their lives, but also encouraged them to take an active role in decisions about their health. The debate underscored the importance of considering the unique insights and needs of AGYW in matters of healthcare.

ACHIEVEMENT

1. We successfully organized a one-day Leadership Mentorship and Coaching session for AGYW where they learned from an experienced leader; Gloria Nawanyaga a distinguished Human Rights Lawyer and the Founder of GILO Young Positives Foundation. This helped to build their confidence, and develop their leadership skills.
2. Increased Awareness of SRHR: Gloria Nawanyaga's insightful speech emphasized the importance of understanding Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), providing the girls with crucial age appropriate knowledge and information.
3. Empowerment and Confidence: The girls left the mentorship session feeling more empowered, responsible, and with a heightened sense of self-worth, thanks to Gloria's guidance and emphasis on advocacy.
4. Positive Mind set and Decision-Making: Through Gloria's life story, the girls were encouraged to approach life with positivity, make responsible decisions, and understand that their choices have personal consequences.

CHALLENGES

1. One of the challenges may be sustaining the newfound sense of empowerment and responsibility after the activity. Continuous support and follow-up may be needed.
2. Overcoming stigma surrounding SRHR and HIV may still be a prevalent issue, and ongoing efforts are required to break down these barriers.

KEY LEARNINGS

1. There is need to know that; Understanding and advocating for SRHR is a powerful tool for young women to take control of their bodies, lives, and futures.
2. There is need to know that; continuous involvement AGYW in Advocacy activities is essential in ensuring that their rights and needs are recognized and addressed.
3. There is need for AGYW to know that; Personal choices and reactions define one's journey, emphasizing the importance of self-empowerment and positivity.

CONCLUSION

BaNgaAfayo firmly believes in the pivotal role that adolescents and young people play in advocating for Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights. By providing them with the necessary skills, knowledge, and confidence, we empower AGYW to be leaders in their communities and strong advocates for their health rights.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Continued Mentorship and Support for AGYW to help them internalize the lessons learned and maintain their sense of empowerment. Broaden educational efforts on HIV and SRHR to reach a wider audience, breaking down stigma and ensuring that all AGYW have access to crucial information.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Global Network of Young People Living with HIV, mentors, facilitators, and participants who contributed to the success of this program. Their dedication and commitment are invaluable in achieving our shared goals.

Facilitators/Coordinators: The activity was facilitated by guest speaker & BaNgaAfayo project staff members

DAY TWO

Date: 25th/10/2023

Venue: BaNgaAfayo Community Center

Location: Kayunga district, Nakaziba Village

Organizer: Ba Nga Afayo Initiative Uganda (BaNgaAfayo)

OBJECTIVES

1. Improve AGYW's empowerment and participation in decision-making processes that affect their lives in Kayunga District.
2. To provide AGYW with practical leadership skills through mentorship and coaching sessions.
3. To enhance the confidence and self-esteem of AGYW, enabling them to effectively advocate for their health rights and needs.

METHODOLOGY

The Leadership Mentorship and Coaching program for AGYW employed diverse and interactive methodologies to engage and empower participants including;

1. Flip charts to illustrate key points visually, group exercises encouraging collaborative learning and teamwork, and engaging presentations to deliver impactful messages.
2. PowerPoint presentations which enhanced the sessions, providing structured content and reinforcing key ideas.
3. Question-and-answer segments which gave room for active participation, enabling AGYW to voice their thoughts, seek clarification, and engage in discussions.
4. Interactive sessions which facilitated open dialogue, enabling participants to share personal experiences, exchange ideas, and actively contribute to the learning process.

NUMBER AND NATURE OF PARTICIPANTS

A total of 50 AGYW participated in the activity and these included; young mothers, those living with HIV, and other adolescents coming from 3 villages that is; Nakaziba, Wankyairaki and Wantente.

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

The one-day Leadership Mentorship and Coaching program organized by BaNgaAfayo in Kayunga District

specifically targeted adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) from Nakaziba, Wankyairaki, and Wantente villages. The program aimed to empower AGYW, including Adolescents, young mothers and those living with HIV, by providing comprehensive sessions on mindset development, leadership skills, and decision-making abilities.

The event featured a series of interactive sessions led by Mayengo Bruno, a youth representative from District Committee on Adolescent Health (DICAH), focusing on mindset shaping and fostering leadership qualities among the participants. The program incorporated presentations, interactive discussions, role-plays, and group activities to ensure active engagement and practical learning experiences for the AGYW attendees.

Pics showing Bruno, a youth representative DICAH conducting sessions

In the afternoon session, AGYW participated in facilitated group discussions addressing various topics related to mindset change and leadership. Following a morning of engaging sessions led by Mayengo Bruno, the group work examined into specific topics such as self-reflection and goal setting, resilience building, and enhancing self-esteem and confidence, empowering the adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) to actively participate in discussions, share personal experiences, and collaborate effectively.

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.





ACHIEVEMENTS

1. We successfully organized a one-day second Leadership Mentorship and coaching session for AGYW where they learned from an experienced youth leader Mayengo Bruno, a youth representative from District Committee on Adolescent Health (DCAH). His sessions equipped AGYW with practical tools to change their mindsets, fostering a positive outlook on life and leadership qualities. By actively engaging in activities focused on goal setting, resilience, and confidence-building, participants gained actionable knowledge to enhance their lives.
2. Inspirational Insights: The presentations and discussions provided valuable insights into mindset transformation and leadership development, inspiring AGYW to adopt positive attitudes, overcome challenges, and strive for personal growth.

CHALLENGES

1. The intended target number for the activity was 50 AGYW; however, the turnout was lower than expected due to various reasons. Some AGYW were on holiday visits to distant relatives in remote villages, while others chose marriage and were unable to return. Additionally, some were engaged in work commitments, which impacted their attendance.

Organizing smaller, localized sessions in different areas, can make it easier for AGYW to attend based on their proximity

KEY LEARNINGS

1. There is need to know that Building partnerships with local organizations, stakeholders, and community representatives expands the support network available for AGYW. Collaborative efforts can bring diverse expertise and resources to further empower this demographic.
2. There is need to know a one-day event is valuable but providing ongoing support and follow-up sessions is equally important. Sustained mentorship and periodic check-ins help reinforce learned concepts and ensure their practical application over time.
3. There is need to know Collecting feedback and evaluating the program's impact is vital for improvement. Understanding what worked well and areas needing enhancement helps in refining future initiatives for better effectiveness.

CONCLUSION

BaNgaAfayo firmly believes in the pivotal role that adolescents and young people play in advocating for Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights. By providing them

with the necessary skills, knowledge, and confidence, we empower AGYW to be leaders in their communities and strong advocates for their health rights.

Recommendations:

1. Conduct periodic follow-ups or workshops to reinforce learning and gauge progress.
2. Explore partnerships for extending support and resources to AGYW beyond the scope of a one-day event

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Global Network of Young People Living with HIV, mentors, facilitators, and participants who contributed to the success of this program. Their dedication and commitment are invaluable in achieving our shared goals.

Facilitators/Coordinators: The activity was facilitated by Mayengo Bruno & BaNgaAfayo project staff members



Radio Talk Show

BACKGROUND

Ba Nga Afayo Initiative Uganda (BaNgaAfayo) is a none profit organisation based in Kayunga District that is working to bring real lasting change to children, adolescents and young people who are struggling with effects of poverty and HIV through coordinated interventions like Education, Public health, skills development and advocacy.

It's upon this background that BaNgaAfayo has organized Radio Talk Shows in collaboration with Sauti FM, a local radio station based in Kayunga district aimed to empower adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) in Kayunga district especially those living with HIV with the correct knowledge, attitude, and skills for reducing HIV infections, gender-based violence (GBV) and improving their SRHR outcomes.

OBJECTIVES

1. Amplify the voices of AGYW from Nakaziba, Wankyairaki, and Wantante villages, providing a platform for them to share their experiences, challenges, and aspirations.
2. Increase awareness and understanding of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) issues among AGYW and the wider community.
3. Challenge stereotypes and address barriers faced by AGYW in accessing SRHR services and opportunities.
4. Empower AGYW with information, resources, and support networks to make informed decisions about their health and well-being.

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

On February 16th, 2024, BaNgaAfayo organized a Radio Talk Show in collaboration with a popular station Sauti FM, a local radio station based in Kayunga district aimed to empower adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) in Kayunga district especially those living with HIV with the correct knowledge, attitude, and skills for reducing HIV infections, gender-based violence (GBV) and improving their SRHR outcomes. These included 10 AGYW from Nakaziba, Wankyairaki, and Wantante villages along with the youth representative from the District Committee on Adolescent Health (DICAH) and District Community Development Officer (DCDO). This was a chance for young women from these villages to speak up.

During the show, representatives like Namaganda Arisat, Mary Dina, and Prosy shared their views. Namaganda talked about the challenges they face as young women in accessing SRH services in their communities and asked those in power to extend these services nearer to their communities since the main Hospital is in town and the

distance isn't favorable due to transport costs, Prosy spoke passionately about giving AGYW equal opportunities to be able to participate in decision making processes, and Mary Dina bravely addressed the stigma around HIV.

Amidst the lively talks, the DCDO; Collins and Bruno; representative DICAH talked about key topics like sex education, health services for women, economic empowerment, and gender equality. The young women representatives had energetic discussions, talking about ways to break down obstacles and fight for the rights of girls and young women in their areas. After the show, it was clear that these young women had made an impact. Their voices echoed hope and resilience, inspiring others to stand tall. Together, they started a movement, showing that every girl deserves a chance to thrive, no matter what challenges they face.

ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Amplified Voices: Namaganda Arisat, Mary Dina, Prosy, and other AGYW representatives shared their stories, amplifying the voices of AGYW from Nakaziba, Wankyairaki, and Wantante villages.
2. The talk shows increased awareness and understanding of SRHR issues among AGYW and the wider community, fostering empathy and support for AGYW's rights and needs.
3. AGYW were empowered with information, resources, and support networks to make informed decisions about their health and well-being, promoting autonomy and agency.
4. The interactive segments allowed for community engagement, with listeners calling in to ask questions, share experiences, and seek advice, fostering dialogue and solidarity.

CHALLENGES

Technical difficulties with radio broadcasts, such as connectivity issues or sound quality, limited airtime for in-depth discussions, and language barriers for some listeners.

KEY LEARNING

There is need to know the importance of inclusive representation in discussions, the power of storytelling in raising awareness, and the need for ongoing support networks for AGYW.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Expand Radio Talk Shows to reach a wider audience and address specific SRHR issues facing AGYW, ensuring sufficient airtime and technical support.

2. Strengthen partnerships with Sauti FM and other local radio stations, as well as community organizations, to ensure sustained engagement and support for AGYW.

CONCLUSION

The Radio Talk Shows with Sauti FM provided a powerful platform for amplifying the voices of AGYW representatives,

promoting awareness, empowerment, and community engagement. By addressing SRHR issues and challenging stereotypes, this activity contributed to the advancement of gender equality and social inclusion in Nakaziba, Wankyairaki, and Wantante villages.





Consultative Meeting

BACKGROUND & INTRODUCTION

The Consultative Meeting on Prioritizing Adolescent Girls' SRHR in Kayunga District was organized by Ba Nga Afayo Initiative Uganda (BaNgaAfayo) in response to the pressing need to address the SRHR needs of adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) in the region. BaNgaAfayo, a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of children, adolescents, and young people affected by poverty and HIV, initiated this meeting to engage local government officials, policymakers, and key stakeholders in collaborative efforts to prioritize AGYW's SRHR issues.

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

The meeting, held on March 1st, 2024, at BaNgaAfayo Community Centre, featured presentations, discussions, and interactive sessions aimed at promoting an enabling environment for AGYW's health and well-being, advocating for the inclusion of SRHR issues in the district health budget, and challenging negative social norms impacting AGYW's SRHR. Key activities included presenting evidence-based data on the challenges faced by AGYW, facilitating dialogue among stakeholders to identify strategic actions and policy recommendations, showcasing success stories from similar interventions, and establishing a framework for ongoing collaboration.

ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Increased awareness among stakeholders regarding the importance of prioritizing AGYW's SRHR needs.
2. Agreement on concrete steps and policy recommendations to integrate AGYW's SRHR concerns into the district health budget and planning processes.
3. Strengthened partnerships and commitment from stakeholders to support initiatives aimed at improving AGYW's SRHR in Kayunga District.
4. Enhanced capacity of local government officials, policymakers, and stakeholders to advocate for and implement effective strategies to address AGYW's SRHR challenges.

CHALLENGES

1. Limited resources and funding for SRHR programs in the district.
2. Resistance to change and entrenched negative social norms.
3. Limited coordination and collaboration among stakeholders.

KEY LEARNINGS

1. The importance of multi-sectoral collaboration in addressing SRHR issues.

2. The need for evidence-based advocacy to drive policy change.
3. The value of youth engagement and participation in decision-making processes.

COMMITMENTS

1. The District Health Officer pledged to prioritize AGYW's SRHR needs in the district health budget and ensure the availability of comprehensive SRHR services.
2. The Probation Officer committed to incorporating SRHR education into youth rehabilitation programs and community outreach initiatives.
3. The Youth Representative at the district pledged to advocate for the inclusion of AGYW's voices in decision-making processes and policy development.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Increase investment in SRHR programs and services in Kayunga District.
2. Strengthen coordination and collaboration among stakeholders to maximize impact.
3. Intensify efforts to challenge negative social norms and promote positive behavior change.
4. Prioritize youth engagement and participation in all stages of program planning and implementation.

CONCLUSION

The Consultative Meeting on Prioritizing Adolescent Girls' SRHR in Kayunga District served as a crucial platform for driving sustainable change. The commitments made by key stakeholders demonstrate a collective commitment to improving AGYW's SRHR outcomes in the region. Moving forward, it is imperative to translate these commitments into concrete actions to ensure that the needs and rights of AGYW are upheld and prioritized in policy-making and implementation processes.





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