



BRENDA BAKOBYE KHAYUMBE
HER VOICE FUND AMBASSADOR,
KENYA

Brenda Bakobye Khayumbe is an enthusiastic youth passionate about policy advocacy on SRHR and HIV among Adolescents Girls and Young Women. She believes policy advocacy work involves two key things: policy change and policy implementation that work for young people. She has 8 years of experience in adolescent and young people's sexual reproductive health, HIV, and AIDs including human rights programming. She has as well taken part in the development of key adolescent health documents including the Communication for Development (C4D) Knowledge Materials targeting Adolescents and Young People with messaging on SRHR and HIV by UNICEF ESARO and an innovative approach to information links: Y-labs.

She's currently sitting at the Kenyan Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, and Adolescent Health and Nutrition (RMNCAH-N) multi-stakeholder Country platform. This platform is being established to strengthen the coordination and implementation of RMNCAH-N services, and mobilize and enhance accountability for resources and health outcomes for women, children, and adolescents in Kenya. Working with Adolescent Girls and Women through Y+ Kenya, Brenda has given keen consideration to mental health issues affecting this targeted population and identifying possible solutions to the rising issues.

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Achievements

Women in leadership life experience by ViiV Health and Y+ Global

At the international IAS2022 in Montreal, Brenda had an opportunity to share her life experience as young women leader hosted by ViiV Health. The panel session was set to help young women in leadership reflect on their journey and its barriers including best practices. Brenda highlighted the fact that young women leaders develop a sense of purpose by pursuing goals that align with their values and advance the collective good. This allows young women to look beyond the status quo to what is possible and gives them a compelling reason to take action despite personal fears and insecurities. Such young women leaders are seen as authentic and trustworthy because they are willing to take risks in the service of shared goals. By connecting others to a larger purpose, especially young adolescent girls and women, they inspire commitment, boost resolve, and help colleagues find deeper meaning in their work as the Her voice fund Ambassadors in Africa.



Y+ Kenya New Grant



Being part of the Kenya Multi-stakeholders Country platform, which was established to strengthen the coordination and implementation of RMNCAH-N services, mobilize and enhance accountability for resources and health outcomes for women, children, and adolescents in Kenya.

As the AGYW representative on this platform, I was fortunate to share what we do as Y+ Kenya through HVF

implementation in the country. With the shared best practices among AGYW, we further developed a competitive program idea into a quality grant proposal of US\$30000 through a community-based, participatory approach from the Global facility fund (GFF) by the world bank that is currently being implemented through Y+ Kenya.

The project objectives are as follows:

OBJECTIVE 1: Strengthen existing AGYW support groups in Nairobi county to address vulnerabilities in SRHR and nutrition by April 2023

OBJECTIVE 2: Develop a community social accountability tool (scorecard) and use findings to support the strengthening of access to SRHR and nutrition services among the AGYW by June.

Planning and coordinating the official Launch of The ICPD25 youth coalition at the National level



Kenya played host to the Nairobi summit on ICPD25 in 2019, where the country adopted seventeen commitments to be implemented between 2020 and 2030. Six out of the seventeen commitments speak specifically to enhancing the quality of life for the youth by improving access to education, economic skills, opportunities, and health services, as well as youth participation in leadership and decision-making. These commitments underscore the critical position held by the youth in the development aspirations of the nation.

Kenya is a young nation with 75% of its population falling below the age of 35. As such, every facet of the 17 ICPD25 commitments adopted by the government of Kenya touches in one way or another, the interests of young people. Successful implementation of the ICPD agenda or lack thereof shall have far-reaching ramifications on the well-being of the young people of Kenya.

The country has already developed a costed action plan to guide the implementation of the ICPD25 commitments and the actions required to achieve the set targets. The youth must remain engaged in tracking the achievement of key milestones as outlined in this plan and prioritizing youth-led accountability mechanisms for the implementation of the ICPD agenda. In this regard, the UNFPA Kenya Country Office (KCO) in partnership with the National Council for Population and Development (NCPD) is supporting youth-driven citizen accountability mechanisms to track and advocate for the implementation of ICPD25 national and county commitments, within the set time-lines.

Why Establish the ICPD25?

The ICPD25 Youth Coalition was established in 2019 by youth-led and youth-serving organizations that came together with the vision and goal of promoting meaningful youth engagement and participation during and after the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25. The youth organizations mobilized and collected ideas from young people who informed the development of the 17 ICPD25 Kenya Commitments. During the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25, the youth Coalition conducted specific side events and promoted adolescent and youth participation in the summit.

It is with this backdrop that the Coalition was convened by NCPD with a focus on creating awareness of ICPD25 among adolescents and youth in Kenya, advocating and promoting mutual social accountability in the implementation of ICPD25 commitments, and coordinating and supporting youth organizations in implementing and reporting on ICPD25 Country commitments.

Social Media engagement to amplify HER Voice Fund activities and advocacy engagement

- Rising Winners Youth Empowerment Initiative and Angaza Initiative is a Youth-led organization on **Twitter space**.
- Women for global fund **advocacy pledge** to get women and girls back on track. **#FightForWhatCounts**.
- 7th replenishment means supporting adolescent girls and young women to access **health services**.
- The ICPD25 **youth coalition Launch- Kenya**.