



Spotlighting UGANDA

Together Alive Health Initiative (TAHI): Youth-Led and Disability-Inclusive Leadership for National HIV Coordination

Together Alive Health Initiative (TAHI) is the HER Voice Fund Country Lead for Uganda. Based in Kampala, TAHI is a youth-led, disability-inclusive organisation advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), gender equality, and meaningful youth participation through advocacy, mentorship, and evidence-based engagement.

As Country Lead, TAHI provides technical

guidance and coordination support to three national grantees, ensuring alignment with national priorities and the Her Voice Fund mission. TAHI's leadership strengthens AGYW advocacy, policy engagement, and accountability in HIV and SRHR responses, with a clear vision of a Uganda where all young people—regardless of gender, ability, or HIV status—can live healthy, empowered, and dignified lives.

Kwak Thrive – Mubende and Mityana: Grassroots Leadership and Inclusive Health Advocacy for Marginalised AGYW

Kwak Thrive strengthened grassroots leadership among marginalised AGYW in Mityana and Mubende, including young women living with HIV, sex workers, transgender youth, and young women with disabilities. Fifteen AGYW were trained in leadership, advocacy, communication, and legal rights. Three participants were subsequently nominated to the District Youth Advisory Committee, securing AGYW representation in local decision-making spaces.

The organisation facilitated a virtual dialogue between AGYW-led groups and district leaders, resulting in a district commitment to establish peer representation structures for key populations. Engagement with the District Health Officer (DHO) on gaps in HIV, TB, malaria, and SRHR services led to commitments to link AGYW to government economic empowerment programmes, including Emyooga and GROW.

Kwak Thrive also conducted legal rights training, improving AGYW confidence in reporting service-related violations. In collaboration with Trans Youth Initiative, a community scorecard exercise at Mityana Health Centre identified service gaps and agreed actions. Fifteen health workers received training on gender-affirming and inclusive care, with early improvements reported in service interactions with AGYW.

Women With a Mission (WWM) – Mbale: Legal Advocacy and Youth-Centred HIV Responses in Eastern Uganda

In Mbale, Women With a Mission (WWM) focused on access, policy reform, and legal protection for AGYW. The organisation reached 354 AGYW with sexuality education, HIV prevention information, condoms, and HIV self-testing kits. During World AIDS Day 2024, WWM hosted an event themed My Health, My Right, during which 99 AGYW accessed HIV testing and counselling in a stigma-free environment.

WWM worked with district leaders to secure AGYW representation on the District AIDS Committee and to push commitments on improved PrEP distribution, removal of stigmatising HIV messages in schools, and inclusion of youth in Health Unit Management

Committees.

A major milestone was WWM's successful strategic litigation challenging mandatory pregnancy testing and the expulsion of pregnant learners. The High Court issued a consent order affirming AGYW's right to education, dignity, and privacy—marking a significant shift in attitudes toward pregnant learners in schools and communities.

WWM also used radio platforms to advocate for integrated, youth-friendly health services, trained 40 health workers in non-judgmental HIV/SRHR care, and supported young mothers in establishing savings groups to strengthen their economic autonomy.

IDIWA – Eastern Uganda: Advancing Disability-Inclusive Health and Leadership for AGYW



Iganga, Kaliro, and Bugiri

IDIWA works in Iganga, Kaliro, and Bugiri to ensure adolescent girls and young women with disabilities (AGYWDs) are included in health, education, and decision-making spaces. Sixty AGYWDs were trained in human rights, leadership, and life skills, resulting in the development of advocacy plans and engagement with local leaders.

AGYWDs participated in national and district platforms, including the 16 Days of Activism, World AIDS Day, and the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, presenting position papers calling for accessibility, reduced stigma, and inclusion in governance processes.

IDIWA facilitated community dialogues with traditional, religious, and local leaders on early pregnancy and school dropout, resulting in commitments to address harmful practices. Collaboration with district authorities and health workers led to ongoing training on disability-inclusive care and the establishment of six disability-friendly corners in health facilities across Iganga and Kaliro.

Following radio discussions highlighting discrimination and long waiting times, Nambale Health Centre III adopted a policy prioritising access to services for people living with disabilities. IDIWA also reached 59 parents and caregivers to strengthen their understanding of AGYWD rights and support needs.

