



UNITED! MOVEMENT

2025 HIGHLIGHTS!

 **700+**
Members

 **221K+**
Reached

 **15**
Countries

The **UNITED! Movement** powerfully advanced youth-led advocacy for sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and HIV across Eastern and Southern Africa in 2025. We strengthened the movement to 763 members across 15 countries, empowered advocates through targeted capacity-building, engaged youth in our regional campaign and high-level policy dialogues, and amplified our voice through strategic digital campaigns that reached over 221,715 people online.

STRENGTHEN THE CAPACITY OF YOUTH-LED SRHR AND HIV NETWORKS

In 2025, the UNITED! Movement made significant strides in institutionalising the capacity of youth-led networks.

We launched the **Strengthening Youth-led Networks Capacities (SYNC) Initiative**, conducting comprehensive assessments and co-creating tailored roadmaps for five diverse youth-led/ youth-serving networks. Targeted skills-building included a media spokesperson training, where 100% of participants reported increased confidence, and a Digital SRHR Advocacy Training of Trainers, which created a sustainable pipeline of digital champions. The year also saw the official launch of the YouthFluencers initiative, where 11 trained advocates began driving social and behaviour change through digital platforms, with organic content reaching over 170,000 people.

 **Sekgabo Seselamarumo**

*"If youth leadership is not resourced, it is not real. Ring-fenced **funding for youth participation is essential to avoid widening inequalities we are trying to change.**"*

- ✔ Launched the SYNC Initiative, assessing 5 networks & co-creating institutional capacity roadmaps
- ✔ Trained 15 media spokespersons & 15 digital advocacy trainers
- ✔ Hosted dynamic capacity strengthening webinars on TFGBV, HIV prevention
- ✔ Launched and trained 11 YouthFluencers for peer-led social & behaviour change using their digital platforms

AMPLIFY YOUTH-LED SRHR AND HIV ADVOCACY FOR COUNTRY-LEVEL CHANGE

Youth-led advocacy was powerfully amplified, shifting young people from participants to agenda-setters.

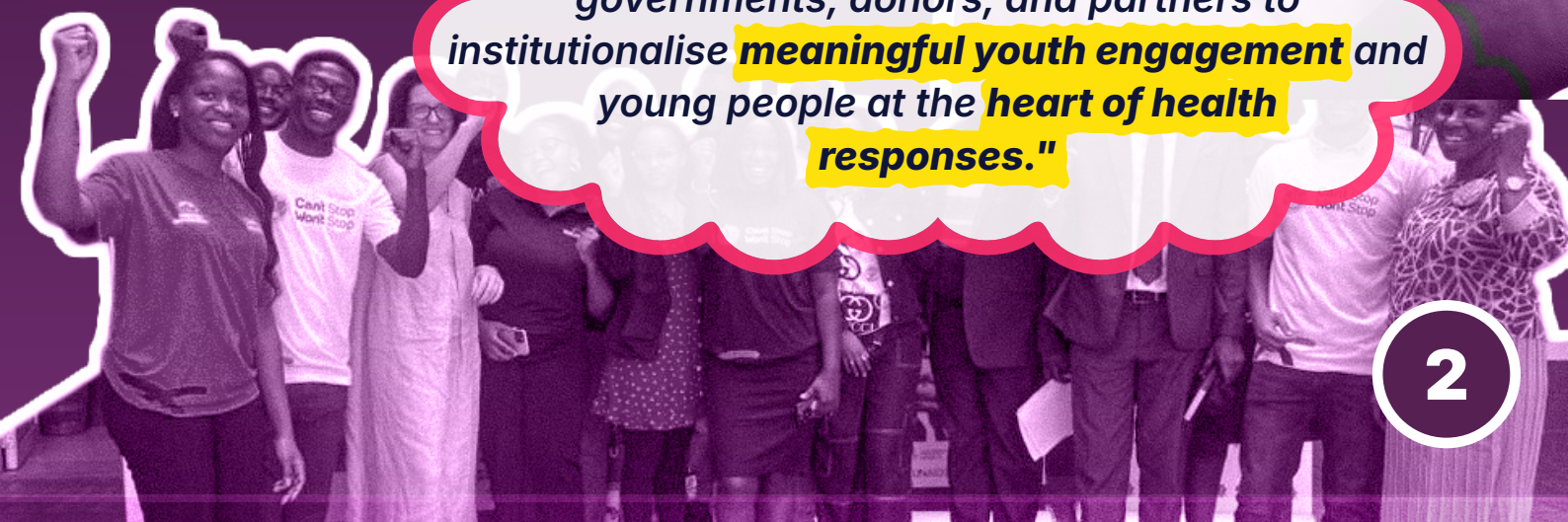
UNITED! Movement advocates participated in more than 15 high-level forums, including SADC meetings, AU summits, and the International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa (ICASA), where they co-moderated sessions and secured seats on steering committees. It's all about raising our voices and making our issues known on these important platforms!

Our flagship **'Can't Stop, Won't Stop: Equipped for Real Change'** campaign was co-created with youth and reached over 48,000 people online, mobilising in-country policy dialogues in Botswana and Uganda. Tangible wins included the formal integration of four youth advocates into Botswana's national HIV Clinical Care Guidelines Committee. To unify our voice, we developed a Youth Advocacy Brief. We contributed to the development of a Youth Statement on the Global AIDS strategy and delivered it during the UNAIDS PCB Multi-stakeholder consultation, securing youth priorities in the 2026-2030 Global AIDS strategy.



 **Nicholas Wela**

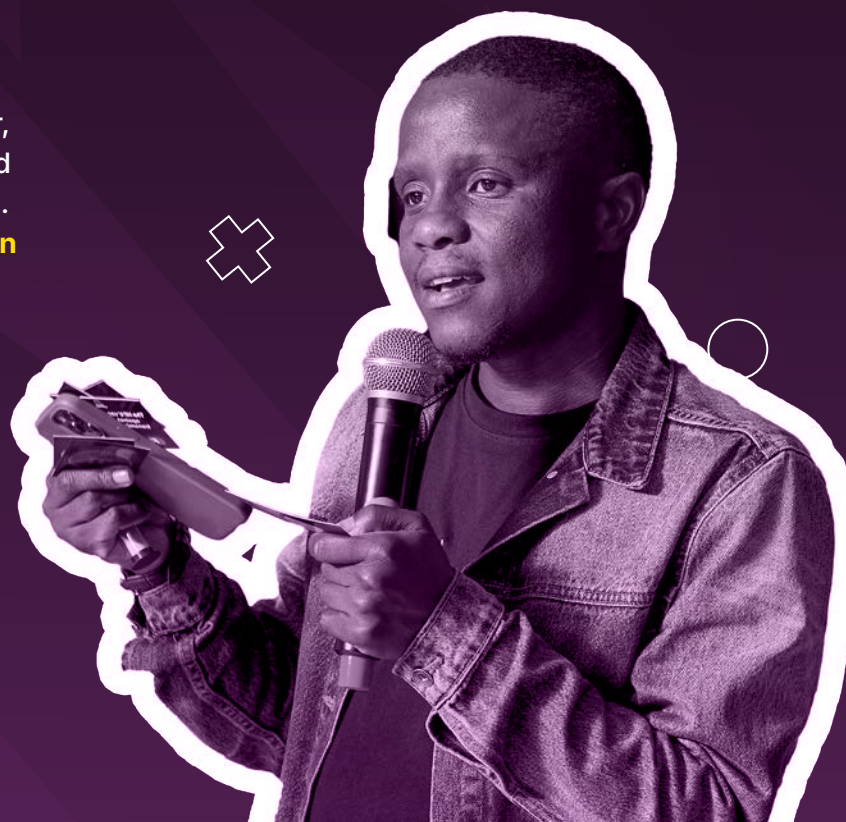
*"Moving beyond tokenism requires governments, donors, and partners to institutionalise **meaningful youth engagement** and young people at the **heart of health responses.**"*



- ✔ Engaged youth in 15+ high-level spaces, from SADC meetings to ICASA 2025
- ✔ Launched the 'Can't Stop, Won't Stop' campaign, reaching 48,000+ across 14 countries
- ✔ Secured 4 youth seats on Botswana's HIV Clinical Care Guidelines Committee
- ✔ Developed a Youth Advocacy Brief to strengthen the coherence of youth advocacy across countries, increasing the likelihood of policy traction and consistent engagement with decision-makers.

EXCHANGE AND LEARNING AMONG YOUTH-LED NETWORKS IS FOSTERED

The movement created vibrant spaces for peer learning and innovation. Thematic webinars on new and innovative HIV prevention approaches, such as Lenacapavir, and on innovation for sustainability facilitated cross-country dialogue and problem-solving. We repurposed the **HIV & SRHR toolkit into an interactive Card Game**, which was successfully piloted at international workshops and conferences. Our digital community grew substantially, with membership increasing to 763 and social media impressions surpassing 221,715. To humanise our impact, we produced **'Unapologetically UNITED! – Stories of Change'**, a booklet featuring 11 youth advocates, and launched a podcast series to amplify narratives hosted on Young Voices Channel and continued to share key resources and opportunities using our WhatsApp community channel.



- ✔ Hosted dynamic learning webinars on New HIV Prevention innovations such as Lenacapavir, and Innovating for sustainability)
- ✔ Co-created an interactive HIV & SRHR Card Game, piloted in conferences reaching over 200+ people
- ✔ Grew to 763 members; social media engagement reached 221,715+ impressions
- ✔ Produced the 'Stories of Change' booklet
- ✔ Launched a podcast series

COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIP

Collaboration was deepened across all levels to ensure coordinated, sustainable action. Bi-weekly steering committee meetings, with rotating chairs among core partners (Y+ Global, AfriYAN, UNICEF, UNAIDS, UNFPA), ensured effective delivery of the joint work plan. Strategic partnerships expanded with AVAC (co-hosting webinars), RAJ+ and ROJAF (for ICASA 2025), and the UNICEF Country office and Botswana National Youth Council during the HIV & ADO Workshop. At the country level, UNITED! Representatives convened national gatherings in 7 countries, fostering local joint advocacy and sparking 10+ new collaborations with media, ministries, and the private sector. To guide broader engagement, we developed a 'Ways of Working with UNITED! Networks' video for UN Country Offices.

 Angel Babirye

*"Being part of the Can't Stop Won't Stop campaign reminded me that **young people are already leading change**. It's time we listen and create space for them to thrive. And we've come too far in SRHR and HIV to lose the gains now."*

- ✔ Maintained strong coordination through bi-weekly steering committee meetings
- ✔ Expanded partnerships with AVAC, RAJ+, ROJAF & Botswana National Youth Council
- ✔ Convened national network gatherings in 7 countries, building 10+ local collaborations
- ✔ Created a 'Ways of Working' guide for UN Country Offices

