



# Uganda Protestant Medical Bureau

**Leveraging Young Adolescent and youth peer supporters to expand access to sexual and Reproductive Information at Faith-Based Private Not-for-Profit Health Facilities in Uganda.**

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# Presentation Outline



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## UGANDAN CONTEXT –SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

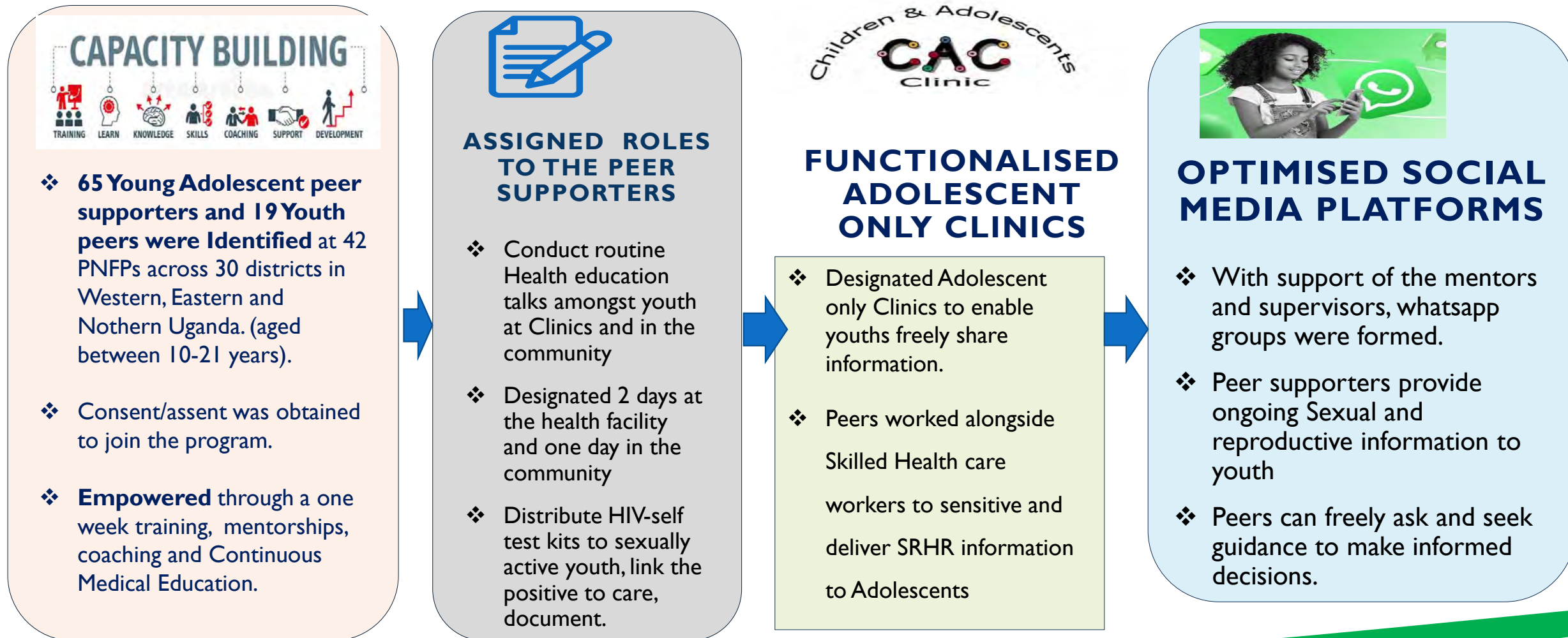
ACTS 1:7-8

- ☐ In Uganda, the young people are disproportionately affected by HIV accounting for about 40% of the new HIV infections.
- ☐ In 2023/2024, over 15,000 HIV infections were amongst the young people aged 15-24 years( 2024 Uganda HIV AIDS Facts sheet) and 80% were adolescent girls.
- ☐ Unfortunately ,some of the youthful mothers cascade Mother-to-child transmission of HIV (MTCT) which accounts for 14% of all new infections in Uganda (1), contributing 5,900 new infections (2)
- ☐ MTCT rate at 18 months is 2.8%, higher among infants born to mothers aged **15-24 yrs** compared to 1.4% among those born to women aged 25+ yrs (2)
- ☐ The youths (18-30 years) constitute about 23% of Uganda's total population however 78% of the total population is below 35 years (National Population and Housing Census, 2024)
- ☐ High Unmet need for modern contraception amongst youth (30%) while a number of the youths don't know their HIV status ( Josephine et.al, 2022).
- ☐ Negative community perceptions , stigma, fear further worsen access to sexual and reproductive health amongst youths( JN Bukenya,2025)

# BACKGROUND

- ❑ The United Nations Population Fund report 2023 indicated that many young people in Africa face barriers regarding access to sexual reproductive health information and care putting them at risk of ;
  - ❖ unwanted pregnancies,
  - ❖ unsafe abortions.
  - ❖ sexually transmitted infections (STIs) including HIV.
  - ❖ dangerous childbirth .
- ❑ In 2019, the Ministry of Health adopted Zvandiri CATS Model from Zimbabwe into the Young Adolescent Peer supporters ( YAPS) model with an aim to improve HIV Care and Retention amongst young Adults and Adolescents ( 10-24 years).
- ❑ Local Youths are identified as Peer educators, trained to provide support, reduce stigma and improve adherence to treatment.
- ❑ To address the information gap on Sexual and Reproductive Health in the community , UPMB leveraged on trained peers as **change agents** to reach the young people with integrated services.

# METHODOLOGY/APPROACH





# APPROACH\_CONTN'



Training of Youth peers at one of the facilities in Eastern Uganda



One of the trained Youth peers giving an SRHR talk



A Peer giving an SRHR talk to youths

# RESULTS

Follow up; 1,030 who  
missed appointments,  
Brought back to care;  
896

ART treatment  
Literacy, Health  
education; 11964

OVERALL,  
11964 YOUTHS  
Sensitised on  
SRH  
BETWEEN  
OCTOBER  
2023 AND  
SEPT 2024

Referred for Family  
planning; 3212

HTS Screened; **11320**,  
Eligible & tested; 11210,  
HIV positive ;105

Adherence support;  
Home visits; 2,324,  
Community visits;  
1324 , Psychosocial  
group sessions: 5,378

# RECOMMENDATIONS/ CONCLUSIONS.

**Youth peer supporters should be empowered through trainings and mentorships to expand access to SRHR amongst the vulnerable youth.**

**Peers serve as an entry point to identification of the missing adolescents living with HIV through distribution of HIV self-testing kits and linking the positive to treatment.**



# REFERENCES

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# Thank you

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