



Samasha

— *Advocacy for Improved Health Systems*

“ Building Local Capacities to leverage health improvements in the Global South Communities ”

2019/2020 ANNUAL REPORT

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Dr Moses Muwonge
Executive Director

Greetings!

Uganda is one of the countries in Africa where the subject of sex and sexuality remains a sensitive topic. This is true despite the fact that many young girls continue to become child mothers and thereby disrupt any chance at building independent self-reliant livelihoods.

The global Covid 19 pandemic has already ravaged decades of gains on sound progress towards improved sexual and reproductive health services including family planning.

The unprecedented numbers of reported and recorded cases of teenage pregnancies since the country went into a lockdown remind us all as stakeholders, of the bitter truth why we ought to have the conversation about young people and their reproductive health needs including services.

This is why now more than ever the conversations about strong reproductive health policies, that translate into safety nets for the girl child to be given a chance to grow, get an education, graduate into gainful employment and when the time is right, freely choose when to have a family, is so important and needed by our communities.

Samasha prides itself to lead, convene and promote advocacy efforts that impact the health on communities in not just Uganda but the Global South.

Therefore, we pledge to continue on the path that allows us to harness strong collaborations and continue to promote the RMNCAH agenda.

I thank you for the support and hope that can join us on this exciting journey.

Stay safe

Samasha stands in silence to celebrate the life and passing of, a colleague and friend.



Patrick Lubowa

(Samasha Director of Finance /Advisor, 2014-2020)

The first time I met Patrick was during a staff retreat where Samasha invited me as their main facilitator.

When Patrick was invited to talk about himself, I quickly gathered he had a special connection with everyone who was in the room. Patrick has an inviting personality and was always a cheerful man.

Over the next 3 years, I realized that Patrick's influence and ability to build friendships where ever he came naturally.

His sudden passing in 2020 was as shocking as it was painful for many of the staff to whom he was regarded as a mentor, friend, brother, a professional colleague. Patrick's greatest gift was to see the good in all the people around him.

"Thank you Patrick, for sharing your gifts with us, for being a true builder who brought the bricks, sand and mortar to Samasha foundation setting. Thank you for being a true friend"

Dr. Moses Muwonge

Samasha

Our evolution.

In celebration of a decade of service and as a recognized international NGO in the Global South, we appreciate our growth which must now be seen also through our new look. It is important to note however that our core values and beliefs that inform the organisations core programming pillars and objectives, remain firm and unchanged.

Vision

A highly networked technical agency that contributes to policies and practices to improve population, health and sustainable development in the Global South.

Mission

Samasha is a technical agency that supports and engages governments, development partners, civil society and private sector through policy advocacy, governance, reproductive health commodity security, skills transfer, innovations, research and partnerships to improve reproductive, maternal, new-born, child, adolescent health and nutrition (RMNCAH-N) health outcomes in the Global South.

Core Values

Samasha believes and espouses values of the right to health especially for women, children, adolescents and disadvantaged communities through a framework that recognizes;

- Gender equity
- Integrity
- Collaborations
- Accountability
- Transparency

Re-branding



Old Logo



Samasha

— Advocacy for Improved Health Systems

New logo



Networking

Samasha builds and supports network collaborations to enable COS share expertise and equally take advantage of in-house shared capacities.

Samasha remains a key convener of other civil society actors to advance the population and development agenda in Uganda, Africa and beyond. (name 2 to 3 networks here in Uganda, Africa and the globe)

Samasha proprietary tools

We have innovatively created customized tools whose global recognition and use had helped advance advocacy and tracking of for example family planning commitments.

Such innovations have enabled impactful engagements and helped drive gains at both national and international levels.

We promote the culture of shared learning

Samasha promotes shared learning spaces and insists on advancing her experiences, practices and expertise for the benefit of other agencies.

As a key technical advisory agency in the RMNCH sector, Samasha has now successfully set her sights beyond local boundaries and now works with partners across the Eastern, Western and Central African countries, through relevant networks and finding mutually beneficial relationships globally.

Samasha Growth

Staff and human resources growth



04
(2012)

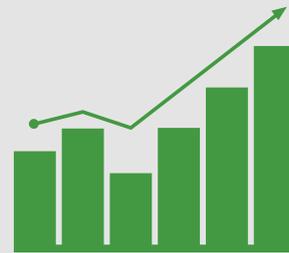


18
(2020)

Financial volumes

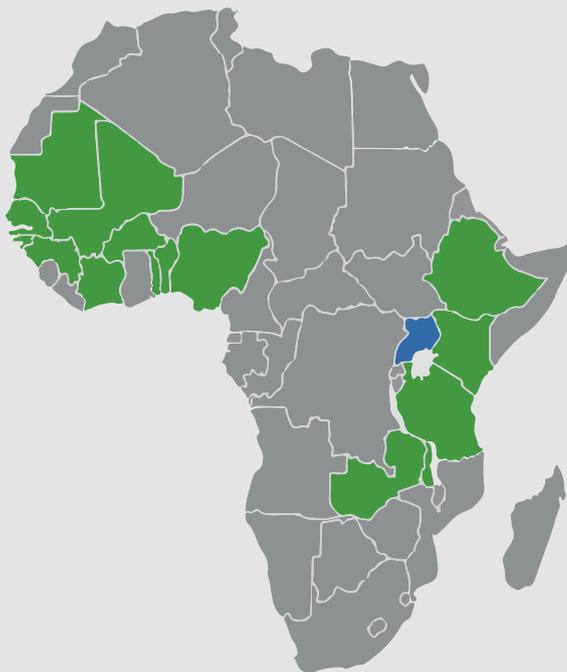


FY June 2013/14
Ugx 161,257,000
(2012)



FY June 2019/20
Ugx 2,193,113,431
(2020)

Organization reach beyond Uganda



Blue(2012)

Uganda

Green(2020)

Kenya, Tanzania
Zambia, Ethiopia
Malawi, Nigeria
Indonesia, Benin
Senegal, Togo
Cote d'Ivoire
Burkina Faso
Guinea Gambia
Mauritania, Mali



Programmes portfolio

- Reproductive Health Commodity Security
- FP Advocacy and budget tracking
- Rapid Assessments

(2012)

- Advocacy and Accountability
- Health System Strengthening
- Health Innovations and Technologies

(2020)

Impact:

a) Samasha's grown presence

Eastern and Southern Africa: 06

West Africa: 10

Asia: 01

b) Increased Visibility of Samasha

The Motion Tracker, a Samasha proprietary and participatory advocacy tool has been adapted as promising FP2030 Accountability Mechanisms by the FP2030 Partnership.

c) Increased uptake of LARCs in Uganda

With the national transition from Implanon Classic to Implanon NXT, where Samasha trained over 3947 health workers across 92 districts, there has been increased uptake as reflected in the PMA results baseline survey.



Samasha work conversations

A FOCUS ON YOUNG PEOPLE

Youth and children (young people) in Uganda, represent the bulk of her population that currently exceeds the 45 million mark.

The Government of Uganda, recognizes this fact, and has made policy adjustments to achieve significant change in the lives of its young citizens. The drive to harness the energies of Uganda's young population (as known as the population demographic dividend)' requires time, partnerships and a commitment that will see increased investments in health, education, and skills building.

These ingredients along with a young people centered social, economic and political development brand, will turn the fortunes of Uganda's young people into a strong, competitive and healthy work force.

Samasha's efforts and partnership conversations to advance health advocacy are not alien to the topic of young people, especially with regard to their reproductive health needs. Young people report limited access and sometimes total absence to SRHR services, increasing numbers of young mothers and those who die while attempting illegal abortions, and a rise in STI/HIV infections among young people who are sexually active.

These dynamics, we have learnt heavily contribute to repeated cycles of poverty and dependency within families, and also seriously hamper individual growth and development.

In 2021 Samasha will begin to explore sustainable ways and means that can aid young people to find local solutions towards the improvement of their SRH health needs. Our first act will be to establish an active youth center in luwero district that will help to create a safe space, where young people ably engage, build and attract supportive partnerships and opportunities that help them to acquire skills and knowledge, and to address specific issues that affect them and their communities.

Focus on the innovations and aspiration of samasha work and interest



“ Youth and children (young people) in Uganda, represent the bulk of her population that currently exceeds the 45 million mark.



MAKING SENSE OF HEALTH ECONOMICS

Whenever I am asked what I do for a living, I am quick to respond and say, "oh! I am a health economist". "What does that really mean"? My friends ask and this really got me thinking, to explain what I do in a way that brings meaning to my work.

As a mother of two gorgeous daughters, I constantly have to weigh and make decisions, because the nature of resources is that they are scarce! I decide on what foods to include in our family meals, so that my family remains healthy.

This means that the choice to focus on health diets and ensure we sleep under mosquito nets among other cost effective health practices for example, substitutes the huge health care expense, we would otherwise incur on health care, if we for example caught a viral or bacterial infection.

In short, if we can take such measures and maintain good health within the family, our increased savings over the years, will not be affected by avoidable illnesses and can be invested in education, real estate and other ventures. That to me, is Health Economics.

Looking at the big picture however, Health Economics means tracking of national health budgets, in order to provide evidence that supports our advocacy towards increase in health care financing.

Even then, the same principle applies.

Government's and other stakeholders investments through health education and sensitization of communities can provide better results with far less costs compared to paying fees to provide treatments (prevention is better than cure).

At Samasha, we focus on the evaluation of Health Interventions and Service Delivery models using a Cost-Effectiveness Analysis to inform policy making and priority making decisions, as well as costing of health plans and programs.

Working against a background of inadequate resources as evidenced in the health sector, the results of these analyses help to answer questions such as investing in prevention vis-à-vis treatment interventions and the value for money or impact associated with each option.

Health Economics, also provides guidance on how to best utilize Uganda's limited resources such as the Health Workforce, Technology, Time, Equipment to achieve the best results →Efficiency. Efficiency ultimately leads to savings which can then be invested in new programs and developmental initiatives to further benefit the common man and woman down the chain.

Charity Kirabo Nagemi. Health Economics Program Officer



“Even though many African countries have marginally increased health spending overall, only a handful of countries – not as many as the fingers on one hand – have met this target in any given year. In 2018, only two countries met the target”. (Agnes Gatome-Munyua and Nkechi Olalere, African Renewal 2020)

FP advocacy in action

Network support to advance Family Planning programmes and services in Uganda

Uganda’s health budget has yet to attain the desired leap of achieving the 15% ‘Abuja Declaration bench mark’, to which she remain a signatory. The country’s health budget for the FY 2019/2020 of 5.1%, is by far the lowest in a decade, down from 7.9% in the previous FY 2019/2020).

This is worrying, considering that over the past years, a lot of our advocacy while targeting government and other development stakeholders, was to ensure that the health needs and particularly those of the vulnerable majority (women, children and youths), who are the population majority are catered for. This in part speaks to the fact that many people in Uganda can hardly afford the much needed quality health care through private care providers as opposed to health services provided through government facilities.

However the story of Family Planning coverage and financing in Uganda despite the health

budget cuts, defies the odds. Since 2016 the Government of Uganda to its full credit, has fulfilled the financial set obligations and has availed funding to cater for family planning programmes and services.

Samasha in partnership with Population Action International (PAI), continues to advance efforts through the Government Accountability for Family Planning Budgets initiative. By using a common framework, the initiative seeks to track and ensure that domestic allocations, disbursements and expenditures for FP programs and FP commodities are consistent, followed through and where possible maintain financial increments.

This work has been possible, because, Samasha relies on her technical abilities to convene FP CSOs under the Family Planning Budget Advocacy Group. Under the FPBAG network, CSOs bring on board their resources and technical expertise and together, they leverage on each other’s strengthen and technical capacities. The FPBAG network in Uganda, facilitates opportunities for its members to work together, maintain a common FP advocacy agenda and to speak with one voice. That is FP advocacy in action.



|| In Africa, women and girls sexual and reproductive health needs are a topic that echoes sentiments of the need to do much more calling for improved policies and funding.

FP2020 Commitment Accountability And Action

At the heart of every community in Africa, women and girls sexual and reproductive health needs, largely remain a topic that echoes sentiments of the need to do much more.

The 2020 International Women's day theme #Choose to Challenge, is a very striking reminder of that need to place focus on the women and girls of Africa, who continue to face social, economic and political challenges, despite their determination to thrive and stand, as strong contributors to the development and progress of their families, communities and nations.

As Governments in Africa further pledge expansion of access to sexual and reproductive health care through improved policies and funding, these commitments must now translate into real progress for women and girls at the community level. Civil society plays its part by holding governments accountable to deliver on their obligations.

The Motion Tracker one of Samasha's widely adopted proprietary tools, is enabling family planning advocates to track government commitments towards women's and girl's sexual and reproductive health and making sure they remain a priority.

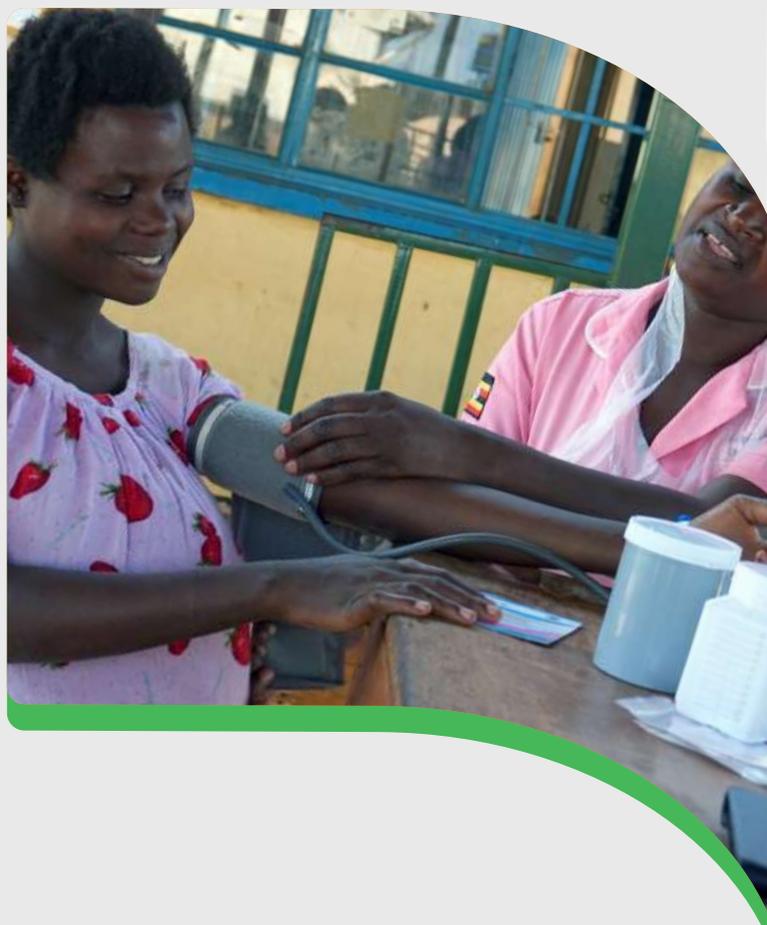
Monitoring, reviewing and determining accountability of global commitments is critical to this process and cannot be effective without mechanisms for engaging and holding governments responsible at the local, national and global level for the commitments they make. This makes coordinated advocacy actions among multi-stakeholder and engagements across sectors at the local, national and global level critical.

Equally to ensure that actions follow commitments and accountability, Samasha promotes awareness raising needed to generate buy-in at the global level for civil society organizations (CSOs) and advocates to further drive the monitoring and accountability efforts.

This is why as partner organisations both Samasha and PAI work with civil society advocates in the four focal countries to

adapt, implement and scale-up the Motion Tracker—a tool developed by Samasha to effectively track FP commitments and hold governments accountable. By measuring and monitoring progress on FP2020 commitments, the Motion Tracker and country conveners drive conversations and priorities for their government and civil society.

The FP2020 Commitment Accountability and Action project is a 3 year project funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation that is promoting impactful, coordinated and sustainable momentum for reproductive health/family planning in 4 countries (Ethiopia, Indonesia, Kenya and Nigeria) through monitoring and building accountability to actualize country commitments and communications strategies to elevate this work to the global level while holding countries accountable to family planning and maternal and child health commitments.



Local Government Across Uganda Embrace Fp Advocacy Strengthening

Samasha Supports Local Governments Advocacy Efforts In Uganda

Evidence has shown that family planning is a cost-effective intervention that contributes to reduction of maternal and child mortality.

Investments in family planning in Uganda now prove that the outcomes highly contribute to the government's development vision target of moving Uganda to a middle-income country by 2040. This in turn creates opportunities for productive engagements for both women and men to support quality families at the community levels as evidenced through improved livelihoods.

The Ministry of Health in collaboration with FP partners in Uganda, has embarked on coordinated efforts that seek to strengthen FP interventions through better coordination backed by strong monitoring, and evaluation mechanisms of district Family Planning efforts. This is now done through the development of district based FP costed implementation plans (CIPs).

The FP DCIPs effectively guide programmes in each respective district. All developed plans aim to address six thematic areas, namely; Financing, Contraceptive Security, Policy and Enabling Environment, Demand creation, Service Delivery and Access, Stewardship, Management and Accountability, all geared at enhancing effective FP/RHCS programming at district levels.

Samasha as a member of the Uganda Family Planning Consortium (UFPC) in 2020, supported six selected districts (Apac, Dokolo, Butambala, Mpigi, Maracha and Nebbi) with FP advocacy capacity building and technical support to develop their specific FP CIPs.

Samasha Progress impact markers:

- 6 DCIPs developed and adopted
- Increased district stakeholders engagements in FP issues



- A better stakeholder understanding and increased knowledge about the each specific district FP needs



Evidence shows that family planning is a cost-effective intervention that contributes to reduction of maternal and child mortality.

West Africa CSOs advance Family Planning

In an effort to ensure that FP2020 commitments are fulfilled by governments in Africa, Samasha has continued to extend her technical assistance and partnership expansion in the African region.

Today Samasha works with others CSOs to push for initiatives in Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast and Togo. The 3 initial pilot countries were selected to implement the Motion Tracker, to monitor their FP2020 commitments. The quick lessons from the 3 initial countries have helped inform the scale up operations of this work in Mali, Senegal, Mauritania, Niger, Guinea and Benin.

So far this work has helped secure the following milestones.

- 68 partners register interest to support the realization of FP 2020 commitments in west Africa
- 25 commitment indicators were set and have been achieved
- 26 indicators across Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast and Togo are on track
- Burkina Faso had fully achieved 2 of her FP2020 commitments
- Ivory Coast achieved 10 out of 22 process indicators
- Togo achieved 5 of her process indicators

For more information, please visit (www.themotiontracker.org)



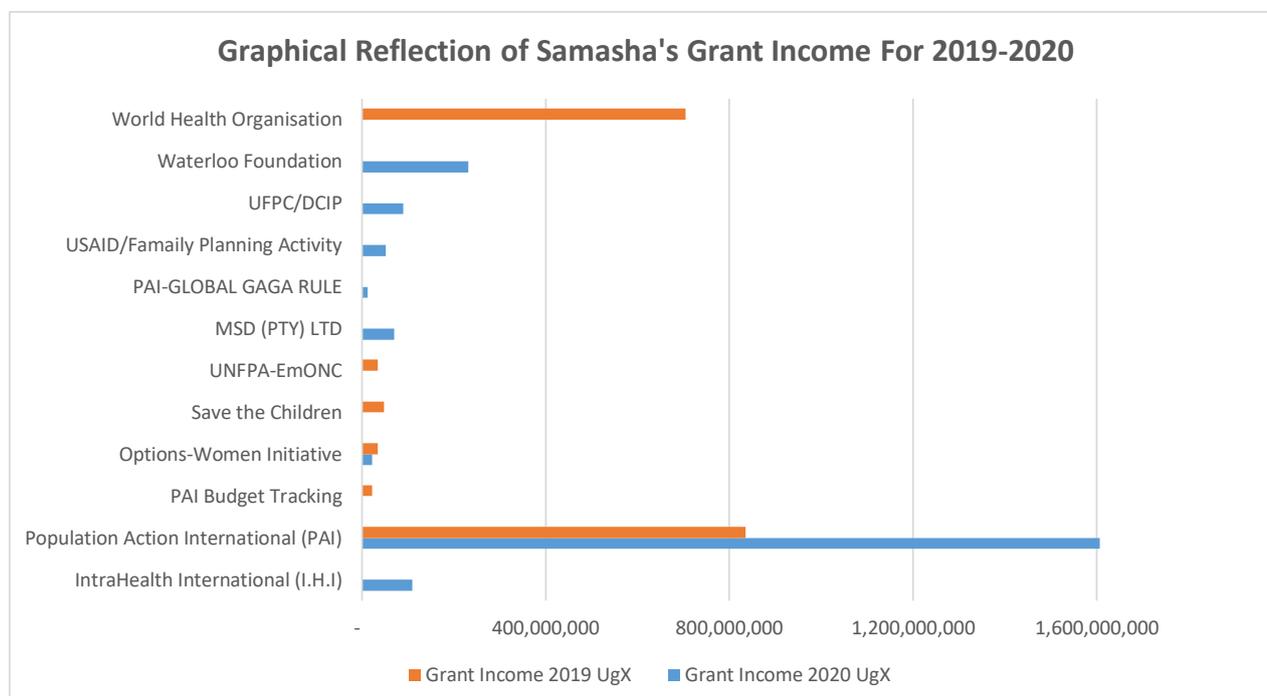
THE MOTION TRACKER

This is a customized, dynamic framework for strengthening accountability and driving action by keeping commitments visible and highlighting progress while fostering partner participation, engagement and ownership to address bottlenecks along the way.

Samasha Financial Performance 2020

| Projects | Grant Income 2020 | Grant Income 2019 |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | UGX | UGX |
| IntraHealth International (I.H.I) | 109,150,000 | - |
| Population Action International (PAI) | 1,607,107,681 | 834,797,619 |
| PAI Budget Tracking | | 21,922,742 |
| Options-Women Initiative | 22,296,496 | 34,711,846 |
| Save the Children | - | 47,417,765 |
| UNFPA-EmONC | - | 34,000,000 |
| MSD (PTY) LTD | 69,601,450 | - |
| PAI-GLOBAL GAGA RULE | 12,074,506 | - |
| USAID/Family Planning Activity | 51,605,597 | - |
| UFPC/DCIP | 90,050,826 | - |
| Waterloo Foundation | 231,226,875 | - |
| World Health Organisation | - | 705,044,450 |
| Total | 2,193,113,431 | 1,677,894,422 |

Graphical Reflection of Samasha's Grant Income For 2019-2020



Samasha Global and International Reach

Partners in the Global South

- Abt Associates
- ACHEST
- Action for Health Uganda
- AOGU
- Amref Health Africa Uganda
- Brick by Brick
- Better HAG Uganda
- BRAC
- Belgium Technical Cooperation (BTC)
- Care International
- CEHURD
- CHAI
- Community Health Alliance
- CSBAG
- Cuamm
- DFID
- DSW Uganda
- Engender Health
- FHI 360
- Fowode
- GEYA
- Health Child
- Heps Uganda
- Hope after Rape
- IDI
- Intrahealth
- Jhpiego
- JMS
- Marie stopes
- MakCHS
- MakSPH
- Mild May
- Ministry of Health
- Mityana Dioceses
- MOES
- MoGLSD
- MSH
- NACWOLA
- NAFOPHANU
- Naguru Teenage Centre
- NAWUMP
- •NMS
- NPC
- Options Uganda
- Path
- Pathfinder
- Peer to peer
- Plan International
- POMU
- PPD ARO
- PPG Global
- PSI-Uganda
- Reach a Hand Uganda
- RHU
- RTI
- Save the Children
- Save the Children
- SRHR Alliance
- Save for Health Uganda
- Transparency International
- Tositukirewamu
- UCMB
- UFPC
- UMMB
- UNHCO
- UPMB
- UYAFPAH
- UYP
- VSO
- Well share International
- White Ribbon Alliance
- World vision
- Youth Alive
- Youth Coalition Uganda
- Youth plus Uganda
- Ougadougou Partnership
- Amref Kenya
- Yayasan cipta
- Corha
- AHBN
- HDT
- Centre for Reproductive Health and Education
- ATBEF
- ABBEF
- UHMG

UN Agencies

- UNICEF
- UNFPWHO

Partners in America and Europe

- USAID
- NVF
- PMNCH
- PAI
- Bill and Melinda gates Foundation
- Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition
- IPPF
- AKESO Associates
- MSD
- WHO



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