

Samasha

— *Advocacy for Improved Health Systems*

ANNUAL REPORT

2023/24

**ADVOCACY
FOR IMPROVED
HEALTH
SYSTEMS**

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ACRONYMS

CSO	Civil Society Organization
EWEC	Every Woman Every Child
ENAP	Every Newborn Action Plan
EPMM	Ending Preventable Maternal Mortality
FP	Family Planning
ADH	Adolescent Health
MOH	Ministry of Health
DHO	District Health Officer
RMNCAH	Reproductive Maternal and Child Health
RH	Reproductive Health
CIPs	Costed Implementation Plan
RHCS	Reproductive Health Commodity Security
MNCH	Maternal and Child Health
SRH	Sexual Reproductive Health
FP DASH	Family Planning Dashboard
DICAH	District Committee on Adolescent Health
ADSH	Adolescent and School Health
NAPHS	National Action Plan for Health Security

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



***Cornelia Asimwe,
Executive Director***

Dear Partners, Colleagues, and Friends of Samasha,

As we close the chapter on FY2023/24, we pause to reflect on the remarkable progress we have made in advancing RMNCAH (Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, and Adolescent Health) in Uganda. This year has been filled with numerous milestones that highlight our collective efforts to address key global health challenges impacting women, children, and adolescents.

Our successes this year are the direct result of the dedication and hard work of our team, as well as the unwavering support and trust of you—our esteemed partners and stakeholders. Together, we have taken significant steps toward ensuring equal access to healthcare for all, with a firm commitment to addressing gender disparities and ensuring that no one is left behind.

As you go through this report, I invite you to reflect on the positive change we've created together—consider the lives we have touched, the progress we have made, and the challenges we have overcome. We celebrate these achievements with immense pride and gratitude, and we remain energized and committed to the journey ahead as we continue to make a meaningful impact.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership and your commitment to advancing healthcare, addressing gender disparities, and fostering positive change through advocacy, collaboration, innovation, and accountability. Your support is essential as we continue to push forward with transparency and dedication to improving health outcomes for all.

Warm regards,

Cornelia Asimwe

WHO WE ARE

We are a not-for-profit technical advisory support agency working towards improving health outcomes.

VISION

A highly networked agency contributing to policies and practices for improving population health and sustainable development in the Global South.

MISSION

Engage governments, development partners, civil society, and the private sector through policy advocacy, accountability, skills transfer, innovations, and partnerships to enhance RMNCAH-N outcomes.

Samasha remains steadfast in its dedication to tackling the primary global issues impacting the health of women, children, and adolescents. Headquartered in Kampala, Uganda, we extend our support to approximately 14 countries across Asia and Africa. Our catalysts for transformation include fostering partnerships, collaborations, and affiliations. At the heart of Samasha's capabilities lies its capacity for innovation and the transfer of skills to public institutions and civil society organizations. This transfer enables them to enhance health systems in crucial areas such as leadership and governance, access to medicines, health financing, service delivery, health workforce, and health information systems.

OUR VALUES

- *Gender equity*
- *Integrity*
- *Collaborations*
- *Accountability and transparency*

OUR PROGRAMS PORTFOLIO

Advocacy and Accountability

Using evidence-based advocacy to influence health policies and priorities.

Health Innovations and Technologies

Developing innovative tools and technologies to enhance RMNCAH-N (Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, and Adolescent Health and Nutrition) services.

Health System Strengthening

Providing technical assistance to improve supply chain management, health service providers, and policy advocacy.

Organizational Strengthening

Improving internal capacities to consolidate their position as a leading technical advisory agency in RMNCAH-N programming.

OUR STRATEGIC DIRECTION

Samasha is a fully registered NGO and works within the existing legal and strategic frameworks. We compliment global, regional and national efforts to increase access to RMNCAH information and services. Our interventions are aligned to and compliant with international and national development directions:

- *Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)*
- *Uganda Vision 2040*
- *National Development Plan IV*
- *FP2030 Commitments*
- *RMNCAH Sharpened Plan and Investment Case II (2022/23-2026/27)*
- *Uganda FP Costed Implementation Plan II (2020-2025)*

PROGRAM AND ORGANIZATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

PROJECTS AND GRANTS

Health Innovations and Technology

2.5 ADVANCING SELF-CARE IN LIBERIA

The USAID/Propel Health grant enabled the localization of the WHO Guideline on Self-Care Interventions in Liberia by providing technical support, facilitating workshops, and developing a “How-to Guide” using Uganda’s sandboxing approach. It supported a validated situational analysis and consensus on key self-care interventions for the national guidelines, strengthening Liberia’s self-care framework and health outcomes.

Goal	To provide technical support to the Liberia National Consultant and Liberia Self Care Expert Group in the domestication of the WHO Guideline on Self-care Interventions for Health and Well-being to the Liberia local setting
Samasha’s role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead authors in the development of the ‘How to guide’ document on Localizing WHO Guidelines on Self-Care • Co-facilitating workshops to validate the results of the situational analysis on self-care practices in Liberia and agree on the self-care package • Reviewing and revising the draft Liberia national self-care guidelines developed by the Liberia consultant
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A ‘How to guide’ document on Localizing WHO Guidelines on Self-Care using the sandboxing approach that was used in Uganda • A validated situational analysis of self-care practices in Liberia • A consensus on self-care interventions to be included in the Liberia national guideline
Timeframe	Start date: August 2023 End date: September 2025
Value	\$144,228



Participants during one of the validation meetings in Liberia

Advocacy and Accountability

2.6 OPTIMIZING ADOLESCENT HEALTH OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPACT IN KOLE AND LUWERO DISTRICT

The grant from Planned Parenthood Global (PPG) enabled Samasha to implement the Optimizing for Adolescent Health Opportunities for Impact Project in Luwero and Kole districts, improving adolescent health outcomes. It supported schools and communities with age-appropriate health information, stronger health facility referral linkages, and promotion of healthy lifestyles. These efforts increased awareness, access to services, and empowered young people to make informed health decisions, laying a foundation for sustained improvements in adolescent well-being.

Goal	To enhance the functionality of DICAHs, strengthen strategic partnerships for delivering adolescent health information and services, and leverage these collaborations to accelerate action for greater social impact.
Samasha's role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide financial and technical support for quarterly DICAH meetings in Luwero and Kole districts. • Conduct school health and community awareness campaigns in Luwero and Kole districts in collaboration with the Ministry of Health's ADHS Division to promote adolescent health. • Offer technical assistance in the development and dissemination of the 2024 First Edition of the DICAH guidelines.
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced capacity of district leaders to effectively advocate for adolescent health policies and programs. • Expanded access to age-appropriate sexual and reproductive health (SRH) information, empowering in- and out-of-school adolescents and young people to make informed decisions. • Strengthened community support for adolescent- and youth-friendly services, fostering an inclusive environment for their well-being. • Enhanced coordination of multi-sectoral stakeholders in addressing adolescent health issues at national and district levels.
Timeframe	Start Date Dec-2023 End Date: Sept 2024
Value	\$ 42000



Photo collage of the school and community health outreaches in Luwero and Kole Districts

2.7 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MOTION TRACKER IN FRANCOPHONE WEST AFRICA: STRENGTHENING FAMILY PLANNING ACCOUNTABILITY IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE

The Speak Up Africa grant enabled Samasha to support Côte d'Ivoire in implementing the Motion Tracker Approach (MTA) for FP2030 commitments. With this funding, stakeholders deconstructed commitments, developed process indicators, and mapped key FP partners, strengthening accountability and collaboration. The grant also facilitated data collection and analysis, leading to Côte d'Ivoire's first progress report.

Goal	To support Côte d'Ivoire in effectively implementing its FP2030 commitments by enhancing transparency, accountability, and collaboration among stakeholders through the Motion Tracker Approach (MTA).
Samasha's role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical Assistance: Provided guidance throughout the deconstruction of FP2030 commitments and development of process indicators. • Stakeholder Engagement: Supported stakeholder validation meetings to ensure alignment and accountability. • Capacity Building: Assisted in mapping key partners, fostering collaboration between CSOs and the government.
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved Commitment Understanding: The deconstruction of FP2030 commitments led to a clearer and more shared understanding among stakeholders. • Defined Process Indicators: The development of indicators enabled stakeholders to align their expertise with commitment realization. • Strengthened Partnerships: Mapping key partners fostered coalitions among CSOs and partnerships with the government.
Timeframe	Start date January 2023 End date July 2024
Value	\$14,905.28

2.8 STRENGTHENING ACCOUNTABILITY AND VISIBILITY FOR FP2030 COMMITMENTS

The grant from New Venture Fund enabled Samasha to provide onsite and offsite technical assistance, foster strategic partnerships with FP2030 regional hubs, and enhance CSO-government collaboration for stronger accountability.

Goal	To strengthen advocacy and accountability for ENAP and EPMM country action plans, scale up momentum for FP2030 and EWEC commitments, and advance universal access to family planning (FP) through mutual accountability and advocacy.
Samasha's role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided onsite and offsite technical assistance to Nigeria, Ethiopia, Kenya, Indonesia, Togo, and Niger. • Strengthened in-country engagement through partnerships with FP2030 regional hubs in Nairobi, Kenya, and Abuja, Nigeria.
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 31% increase in multi-sectoral stakeholder contributions to FP2030 country progress reports, from 118 (34%) in 2020 to 226 (64%) in 2022. • Strengthened CSO-government collaboration, fostering trust and engagement in FP accountability, with continuous participation of FP2030 focal points and government agencies
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some countries still lack FP2030 country commitments or are in the early development stages. • Sustaining momentum beyond the six-month project period was a challenge.
Timeframe	Start date : January 2023-June 2023
Value	\$400,000



FP2030 Stakeholder Validation meeting hosted by CORHA-Ethiopia

2.9 COMMUNICATIONS CAPACITY TRAINING

The grant from Population Action International (PAI) was invaluable for Samasha, enhancing our communication capabilities. The training strengthened our ability to develop strategic communication plans. With a clear communications strategy and content calendar, we are now better equipped to deliver impactful messages and drive positive change in our advocacy efforts.

Goal	To enhance Samasha’s communication skills and strengthen our capacity to create impactful and strategic communications, with a focus on developing effective communication strategies and digital outreach plans.
Samasha’s role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Samasha actively participated in the three-month Communications Capacity Training organized by Population Action International (PAI), gaining practical tools and insights to improve its communications efforts.
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of a detailed communications strategy. Creation of an actionable content calendar. Improved ability to engage audiences and deliver key messages effectively. Strengthened network with other CSOs working on similar advocacy efforts.
Timeframe	Start Date May 2024- End date June 2024
Value	\$600

Health System strengthening

Our Scope: Commodity Security, Capacity building of Human Resources for Health, Leadership and Governance

Our Approach:

- a. Partnership with other stakeholders (government, implementing partners and CSOs)
- b. Capacity building and mentorships in project districts

3.0 BUILDING CAPACITY FOR EPIDEMIC PREPAREDNESS: SAMASHA'S PARTICIPATION IN BUDGET ADVOCACY TRAINING

Goal	To strengthen advocacy efforts for increased and sustained domestic investments in epidemic preparedness by equipping CSOs with tools and resources for effective budget advocacy campaigns.
Samasha's role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actively participated in training sessions organized by the Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHAI) Engaged with the Budget Advocacy Toolkit for Epidemic Preparedness, building expertise in the use of its resources, including the Budget Advocacy Framework.
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthened organizational capacity to advocate for increased and sustained epidemic preparedness investments. Improved knowledge and skills in implementing budget advocacy campaigns using the Budget Advocacy Toolkit. Enhanced readiness to implement strategic initiatives aimed at safeguarding Uganda's public health through robust advocacy efforts.



ORGANIZATIONAL STRENGTHENING

Our Growth! Our prosperity

SAMASHA STAFF RETREAT



The Samasha staff on a photo moment during the team building.

Samasha held a two-day staff retreat to reflect, strategize, and align priorities for the year ahead. The retreat focused on enhancing team capacity, fostering collaboration, and strengthening Samasha's impact in health advocacy and accountability.

Key sessions included training on the SMART Advocacy framework, capacity-building in project management and advocacy, and effective use of tools like the Motion Tracker to track commitments and progress.

Financial planning and accountability were emphasized through practical discussions on budgeting and resource management.

Team-building activities, facilitated by Ant Feet Uganda, promoted collaboration, strategic thinking, and mutual support. This retreat reaffirmed Samasha's dedication to teamwork, excellence, and delivering impactful health systems strengthening and advocacy results

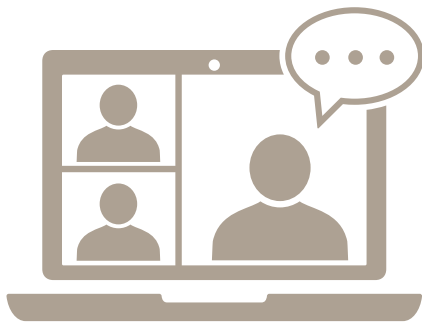
WORKSHOPS/MEETINGS AND WEBINARS PARTICIPATED IN



27
Workshops



38
Meetings



38 Webinars

MEDIA OVERVIEW



654
Social Media
Posts



01
News paper
Article

04
Quarterly
Newsletters



550
Followers



122
Followers



245
Followers

SAMASHA IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Prepare for future epidemics

EDITOR: Uganda is prone to disease outbreaks due to highly dangerous pathogens.

With the ongoing outbreaks like mpox, measles and influenza, Uganda risks having millions of preventable deaths every year, much more illness and avoidable suffering.

In FY2024/25, Uganda affirmed its commitment to strengthening epidemic preparedness and resilience by allocating sh57.8b (\$15.4m) from its revenues.

Currently, less than 20% has been released. How can we ensure that we create a strong healthy system capable of withstanding future outbreaks?



**CORNELIA
ASIMWE**

LESSONS FROM PAST OUTBREAKS

According to the Ministry of Health, Uganda faces an estimated loss of sh4 trillion annually due to health crises, underscoring the need for strategic investment in the country's preparedness and response. For example, with the ongoing mpox outbreak, Uganda has registered 784 cases and only had four deaths across 52 districts since the outbreak in July 2024. This success is attributed to robust surveillance systems, improved co-ordination, vaccination advocacy and community engagement activities. To sustain these efforts and achieve more, there is need more than ever to have targeted domestic investments to improving our healthcare system.

ACTIVATE POLITICAL LEADERSHIP AND FUNDING FOR DISTRICT RESPONSE PLANS

National governments only spend about 1% to 3% of their health budgets on planning and responding to epidemics. Much of the funding is short-term, focused on addressing ongoing epidemics rather than preventive and long-term preparedness.

With more resources, strong leadership and political will that lasts will make sure that the right things get the attention, money they need, starting with the district's plans and budgets.

EXPANDING LABORATORY CAPACITY FOR EARLY DETECTION

Outbreaks like COVID-19 and mpox have made it clear that there is a need for advanced testing hubs to facilitate early detection. Uganda has nine regional public health emergency operation centres attached to the regional referral hospitals with inadequate laboratories incapable of diagnosing and handling highly contagious pathogens like Ebola, Marburg and haemorrhagic fevers.

Establishing or upgrading these labs and equipping them with portable diagnostic kits coupled with trained health personnel can enable faster testing, especially in marginalised and underserved areas. By prioritising this investment, Uganda can drastically reduce response time thereby containing diseases before they escalate.

ESTABLISHING NEW ISOLATION AND CARE UNITS

Specialised treatment centres are vital for containing infectious diseases. Currently, less than 10 districts in Uganda have dedicated isolation units, leaving most outbreaks to be managed at overburdened referral hospitals.

Constructing isolation units at district hospitals will reduce pressure on national facilities and ensure equitable access to care. Policy makers must prioritise investment into infrastructure to prevent community spread and enhance patient outcomes.

A CALL FOR STRONGER MULTISECTORAL RESILIENCE

Epidemics are not just a health issue they disrupt trade, transport, education, agriculture, supply chains, livelihoods and demand responses from many sectors. Multisectoral collaboration is needed as a foundational element for any country's preparedness efforts.

LET'S SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY

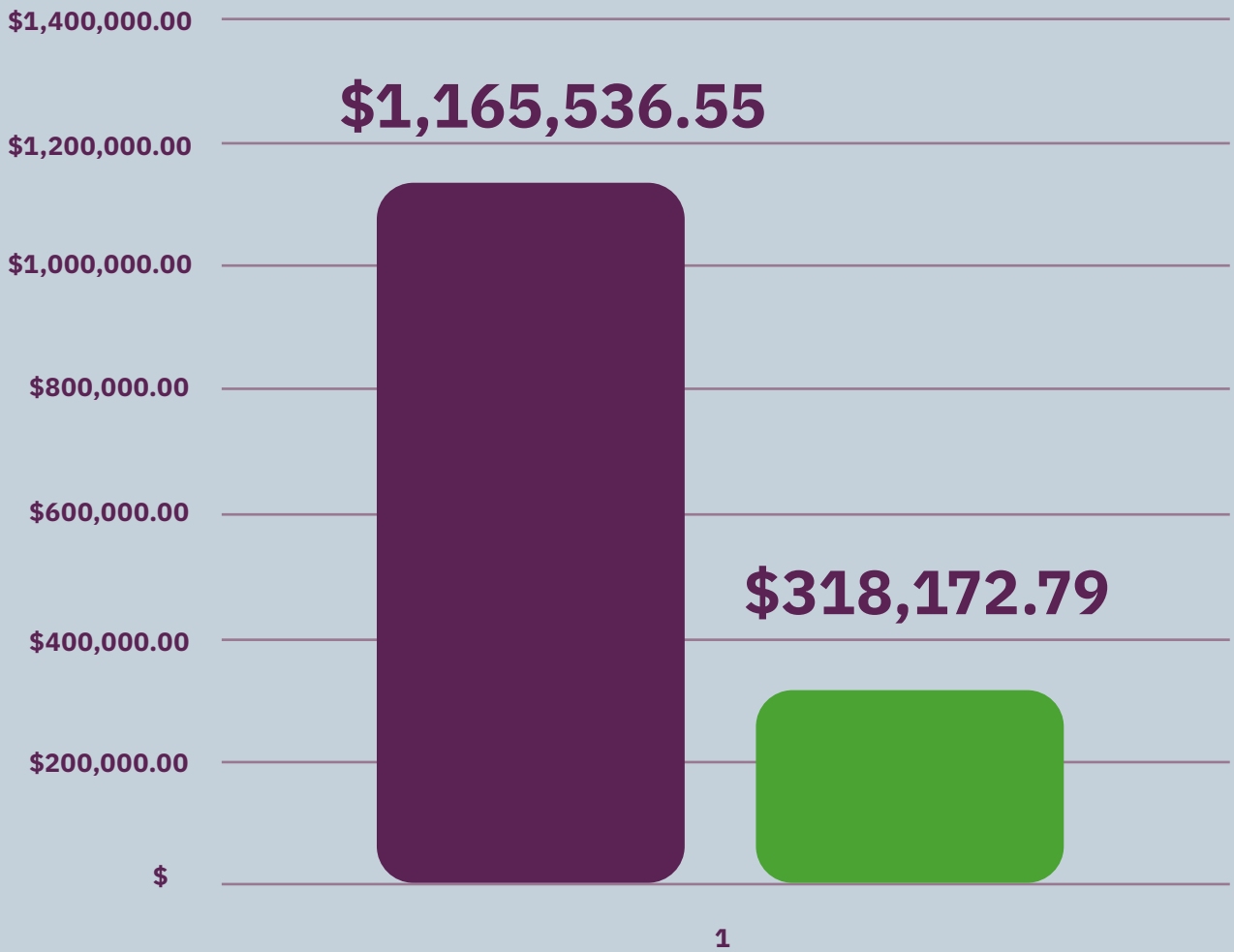
The sh57.8b allocation is a significant milestone but its success largely depends on effective planning, implementation and accountability. With over 3,000 health facilities in need of upgrades, policymakers must act decisively, prioritising investments in laboratory capacity, digital health systems and isolation units. By fostering collaboration and leveraging this funding wisely, Uganda can turn the tide on epidemics, build a future-ready health system.

Read the full version at www.newvision.co.ug

The writer is the executive director, Samasha and member of Uganda Health Security CSO Coalition

FINANCIALS

FY 2023/24 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE



 Grants

 Expenses

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Our Development Partners/Donors FY 2023/24

Your generous support, contributions, and partnership have empowered us to make a meaningful and lasting impact on individuals, communities, and the health sector in our country. We deeply appreciate and value our continued collaboration, which is built on shared goals and a mutual commitment to achieving transformative outcomes.

- **Planned Parenthood Global(PPG)**
- **Propel Health**
- **USAID**
- **Population Action International(PAI)**
- **Speak Up Africa**

Our Networks and collaborations

Collective efforts are necessary to realize RMNCAH (Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, and Adolescent Health) and strengthen the health system. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our partners and collaborators at subnational, national, regional, and global levels. Your invaluable contributions and unwavering commitment have significantly advanced our shared goals of improving health outcomes for all.



Implementing partners

AFRICA

- HENNET-Kenya
- Africa Health Budget Network (AHBN)
- Consortium of Reproductive Health Association (CORHA) Ethiopia
- L'Association Ivoirienne pour le Bien-Etre Familial (AIBEF) - Ivory coast
- Association Béninoise pour la Promotion de la Famille (ABPF) - Benin

AFRICA

- L'Association Burkinabè pour le Bien- Être Familial (ABBEF) - Burkina Faso
- Fondation Sante et Developpement Durable - Guinea
- LA FIA MATASSA - Niger
- L'Association Togolaise pour le Bien-Etre Familial (ATBEF) - Togo
- La Mission fondamentale de l'AMSME - Mauritania
- Action et Development-Senegal.

ASIA

- Yayasan Cipta - Indonesia

Government Institutions and Agencies

We wish to acknowledge and appreciate the collaboration and cordial working relationship with the following Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies throughout the year.

Government institutions/Agencies

- Ministry of Health, Uganda
- Local governments in all districts where we had interventions
- Ministry of Education and Sports
- Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development
- National Population Council
- Office of the Prime Minister
- Parliament of Uganda
- Uganda Police



get in touch

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