

Welcome to the latest edition of our quarterly newsletter. We're excited to share some of our most recent achievements and updates with you.

Newsletter highlights

- Enhancing accountability mechanisms for Adolescent Health using DICAHS in Kole and Luweero
- Improving access to Adolescent and youth responsive services
- From Commitment to action: accelerating accountability for FP commitments and MNH Acceleration Plans
- Strengthening Advocacy efforts for Epidemic Preparedness and Response

Enhancing accountability mechanisms for Adolescent Health using DICAHS in Kole and Luweero

The health sector governance structures are adequate but weak at subnational level. The District Committees on adolescent health are leveraged as platforms for showcasing collaboration and advocacy, ensuring that adolescent health concerns are addressed within the wider development agenda.

Samasha, in partnership with Luweero and Kole District Committees on Adolescent Health (DiCAH), continues to urge the district leaders to allocate and increase resources for adolescent health interventions in their local budgets.

“Without enough resources, it's hard to reach all schools, especially those in remote areas, yet those hard-to-reach areas have the highest teenage pregnancies.”

Said Ms. Nakalyango Fatuma, District Youth Councilor, Luweero.

There is also an urgent need to widely disseminate the DiCAH Implementation guidelines to strengthen coordination and supervision of ADH and School health activities at district level.



DICAH members from Luweero and Kole districts during quarterly review meetings and joint support supervision activities.

Improving access to Adolescent and youth responsive services



Orientation of youth focal persons and health workers in Luweero to strengthen adolescent and youth-friendly health service delivery.

Adolescent and youth-friendly health services (AYFHS) are key to ensuring young people access respectful, confidential, and quality sexual and reproductive health (SRH) care. The NDP IV prioritizes adolescent health by providing youth-friendly health services under the Human Capital Development (HCD) programme.

To support this, Samasha, in partnership with the Ministry of Health's Adolescent and School Health Division, identified and built capacities of 20 youth focal persons and 10 health workers in Luweero District on provision of adolescent responsive services. The training enhanced provider competencies and raised awareness to barriers adolescents face when seeking health care.

“We receive close to 25 young people each day. The main challenge we face is the limited space, which makes it difficult to serve them comfortably.”

Stated Sharon Nalumasi, a youth focal person from Zirobwe HCIII

From Commitment to action: Accelerating accountability for FP commitments and MNH Acceleration Plans

Governments, donors, and civil society have joined efforts to improve the health and well-being of women, children and adolescents.

To support progress, Samasha is monitoring progress and amplifying visibility of these commitments through collaborative engagements and partnerships with Ethiopia (CORHA), Kenya (HENNET), and Nigeria (AHBN) using the Motion Tracker Approach. The Motion Tracker Approach helps to hold governments accountable for the commitments made while harmonizing efforts and harnessing the collective power of civil society in addressing barriers to achieving these goals.

Through refresher orientation trainings in the three countries, civil society organizations and coalitions in the RMNCAH+N space are now better equipped to gather evidence, engage policymakers, and hold governments accountable. These efforts are fostering stronger partnerships, improved data transparency, and sustained momentum toward achieving FP2030 and MNH goals.



Right – AHBN team engages Dr. Ibrahim AU Gano, Director of Public Health, at the Kano State Ministry of Health in Nigeria; Left – Orientation training on the Motion Tracker tool in Ethiopia.

Strengthening Advocacy efforts for Epidemic Preparedness and Response



Graduation ceremony for participants who completed the GHAI Advocacy Academy.

Increasing domestic funding for epidemic preparedness is essential for countries' abilities to prepare for and adequately respond to epidemics and pandemics.

Samasha in Uganda successfully completed a comprehensive 9-month program, alongside six other countries, under the CSO budget Advocacy Academy developed by GHAI and Resolve to Save Lives, that builds civil society capacity to advocate for increased domestic health financing.

Through interactive training sessions and dialogue sessions with strategic partners, Samasha strengthened its budget advocacy capacities for timely and adequate funding for epidemic preparedness. We're honored to join a vibrant network of budget advocacy champions committed to improving health outcomes and building resilient health systems across Africa.

Thank you!

Special thanks to Planned Parenthood Global (PPG) and The Gates Foundation for their invaluable support and partnership in advancing our advocacy and accountability efforts for improved health outcomes.