

Samasha

Advocacy for Improved Health Systems

Quarterly **Newsletter** May-July 2025

Momentum for Adolescent Health: Driving sexual Reproductive Health Access & Accountability

This edition opens with a powerful reflection from our Executive Director on how Samasha is championing youth voices, strengthening multisectoral collaboration, and driving action for adolescent health at all levels.

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Partners and Friends,

It gives me great pleasure to introduce this edition of our newsletter, highlighting the strides Samasha has made in advancing adolescent and youth health across Uganda.

Over the past few months, our team has been on the ground in schools, health facilities, and communities, driving interventions that put young people at the centre of health service delivery. From impactful school outreaches and youth-led accountability at regional conferences, to capacity building and community-based campaigns, we've seen firsthand the power of collaboration and the resilience of our youth.

This newsletter shares powerful moments, numbers that matter, and voices that remind us why we do what we do. As we continue to strengthen adolescent and youth-responsive health systems, we remain committed to working with you to ensure that no young person is left behind.

Thank you for walking this journey with us.

YOUTH ACTION MEETS GLOBAL MOMENTUM: SAMASHA AT THE REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH NETWORK KENYA CONFERENCE 2025

From June 24th to 27th, we participated in the 8th Reproductive Health Network Kenya Pan-African Conference on Youth Sexual Reproductive Health Rights, held at Sarova Whitesands Hotel in Mombasa, Kenya. The conference brought together over 1,000 delegates from 38 countries—including youth leaders, Civil Society Organizations, policymakers, and development partners—under the theme **“Adolescent and Youth SRHR in a World of Emerging Threats and Opportunities.”**

We contributed to the regional dialogue by presenting an abstract on how District Committees on Adolescent Health (DiCAH) structures are strengthening youth-centered accountability in SRHR.

Beyond the formal sessions, we actively engaged with fellow CSOs and youth networks to share experiences around tools like the Motion Tracker, deepening conversations on tracking commitments, and building stronger accountability ecosystems. These informal exchanges sparked fresh ideas and opened the door for new partnerships across the continent.



Samasha representative, Carolyn Nakandi, presenting an abstract at the conference

REAL TALK, REAL IMPACT: 3,271 STUDENTS REACHED IN 2 WEEKS!

In June, we delivered life-changing messages on Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights to 3,271 students across 20 schools in Luweero and Kole. With the help of health workers, senior teachers, and subcounty leaders, students learned about menstrual hygiene, sexually transmitted infections, puberty, drug use, gender based violence, and the dangers of early sex.

“I’ve learned that I have the right to speak up,” shared a student from Wakatayi primary school in Ziobwe subcounty, Luweero district

By empowering students with facts and confidence, we’re building a safer, healthier future—one school at a time.



The results speak volumes:



**1,530
students**

Reached in Luweero
(846 girls, 684 boys)



**1,741
students**

Reached in Kole
(905 girls, 836 boys)

**Question and answer session during
school outreaches in Luweero district**

40 LOCAL CHAMPIONS ORIENTED TO MAKE HEALTH SERVICES YOUTH-FRIENDLY

On May 8th and 9th, we oriented 20 health workers and 20 youth focal persons in Luweero and Kole to make adolescent health services more accessible, youth-friendly, and respectful. Training sessions focused on provider attitudes, confidentiality, and meaningful youth engagement, ensuring that every young person seeking care is welcomed and supported without judgment. Youth leaders were also empowered to mobilize their peers and advocate for adolescent health at the district level. As one focal person put it best:

“After this training, I can confidently tell my friends that youth corners are for them—they’ll be listened to without shame.”

This new wave of trained champions is set to improve service delivery in 10 high-burden sub-counties.



Youth focal persons and health workers having a photo moment at the district health office

REACHING 1,260 YOUTH THROUGH COMMUNITY HEALTH OUTREACHES



Young people during a community outreach session in Kole district

In June and July, we brought health services directly to young people in Kole and Luweero through 10 community ADH campaigns. From HIV testing and family planning to HPV vaccination and nutrition talks, services were delivered by nearby health facilities with strong support from subcounty chiefs.

These campaigns reached 1,260 adolescents and youth, particularly those who were out of school or hesitant to visit health centres. One teenage mother captured the impact clearly:

“Here, I felt safe to ask questions and get help—no one judged me.”

This model demonstrates that when services are brought closer to young people and they are treated with dignity, they are more likely to show up.

BILI NOW NOW YOUTH SUMMIT: BIG IDEAS, BRAVE COMMITMENTS, BOLD CHANGE

From July 10th–11th, over 300 passionate young people gathered at Reach A Hand Uganda headquarters for the Billi Now Now GN Trybe Youth Summit—a high-energy space where youth-led conversations shaped bold ideas around health, rights, and their future.

The summit featured powerful keynotes, creative breakouts, podcasts, film screenings, and raw conversations on topics like consent, masculinity, mental health, civic engagement, and media advocacy. It was more than talk—it was about building solutions.

We proudly contributed to the conversation on youth accountability, emphasizing the power of personal commitments. Our representative, @PaschalAliganyira, urged youth to take ownership of their SRHR journey—whether through pledging to promote healthy behaviours, fight stigma, or advocate for services in their communities.

But how do we ensure these commitments don't fade? Through tracking, mentorship, and peer accountability. Samasha is championing follow-through because a promise without action is a missed opportunity.



Paschal Aliganyira-Samasha
during the Bili Now Now conference



Challenges we can't ignore

While progress is clear, some urgent gaps remain:

- Youth corners still lack private, welcoming spaces
- Myths and stigma continue to silence teen mothers
- Stockouts of emergency contraceptives disrupt access

We would like to sincerely thank our team members, partners, and stakeholders for their continued contributions this quarter.

For any inquiries or partnership opportunities, feel free to contact us at info@samasha.org — we welcome collaboration.



Plot 1843, Samasha House, Kasangati Kira, Namugongo Road
P.O.Box 33460, Kampala, Uganda | **Tel:** +256-414-660 792
E-mail: info@samasha.org | **Website:** www.samasha.org