



Samasha

— *Advocacy for Improved Health Systems*



ANNUAL REPORT
2024/25



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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

BNN	Bili Now Now
CAAPS	Collaborative Advocacy Action Plans
CORHA	Consortium for Reproductive Health Associations
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
DCDO	District Community Development Officer
DHO	District Health Officer
DiCAH	District Committee on Adolescent Health
EARHN	East Africa Reproductive Health Network
FP	Family Planning
MNCH	Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health
MMS	Medicines Management Supervisors
NAPHS	National Plan for Health Security
NMS	National Medical Stores
PMNCAH CAAPS	Partnership for Maternal, Newborn, Child, and Adolescent Health – Collaborative Advocacy Action Plans
RMNCAH	Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, and Adolescent Health
SASA	Smart Advocacy for Strategic Action
SRH	Sexual and Reproductive Health
VHTs	Village Health Teams
ADSH	Adolescent and School Health





ABOUT US

Who We Are

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

Mission

To strengthen health systems with focus on RMNCAH-N through partnerships, evidence-driven policies, capacity strengthening, and scalable innovations.

Our Values

Transparency and Accountability

We champion open communication, proactive information sharing, and clarity regarding our operations and impact. We hold ourselves accountable to the communities we serve and our donors by committing to deliver on our promises and demonstrating the effective and efficient use of resources.



Integrity

We uphold the highest ethical principles, professional standards, and financial honesty in every decision. Our internal processes and resource utilization ensure trust of the stakeholders and communities we serve.

Collaboration

We pursue meaningful partnerships as the most effective path to impact. We commit to leveraging the diverse expertise of governments, development partners, civil society, and the private sector, recognizing that collective effort maximizes our reach and effectiveness in addressing complex RMNCAH-N challenges.

Adaptability

We foster a culture of continuous learning and agile response. We proactively anticipate and swiftly adapt to complex external dynamics.

Excellence

We focus on continuous learning and high performance. We are committed to delivering the highest standards of technical quality in our work.

OUR STRATEGIC FOCUS

A Global South thought partner and advisory institution, advancing RMNCAH-N advocacy, accountability, and resilient health systems

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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As I reflect on 2025, I am reminded that true progress is often born out of challenge. This year was one of profound transformation for Samasha, a year that tested our resilience, redefined our approaches, and reaffirmed the power of collaboration in advancing health and equity across the Global South.

Amid shifts in funding landscapes and the departure of some long-term partners, we chose not to see limitations but opportunities. These moments became catalysts for innovation, compelling us to reimagine how we deliver impact with agility, accountability, and purpose. We strengthened existing partnerships and forged new ones, anchoring our work even more deeply in the principles of sustainability and shared ownership.

At Samasha, we have always believed that meaningful and lasting change cannot be achieved in isolation. It is built through partnerships, with governments that champion policy reform, with civil society that amplifies accountability, and with communities whose lived experiences guide our actions. Together, we continued to ensure that women, children, and adolescents receive



the quality health services they deserve, even amidst evolving global and national priorities.

This report is more than a record of our year; it is a story of resilience, innovation, and unwavering commitment. It highlights how collective action can transform systems, how local leadership drives accountability, and how our shared vision for healthier communities continues to inspire progress beyond project timelines and funding cycles.

To our partners, staff, and supporters, thank you for walking this journey with us. Your trust and collaboration have kept the Samasha spirit alive and strong.

As we look ahead, we remain steadfast in our mission to strengthen accountability, foster innovation, and build systems that work for everyone, because when partnerships endure, progress becomes unstoppable.

Cornelia Asimwe

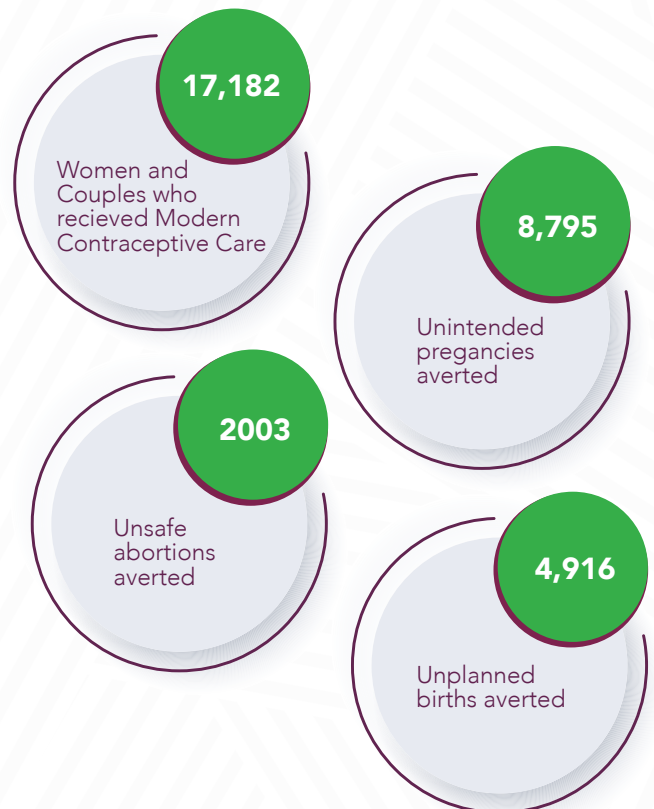
Executive Director



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YEAR IN REVIEW

(75.5% of these being young people aged 10-30 years) with information and services, including Family Planning/Maternal and Child Health services. Across 10 districts in Uganda.





Samasha empowered civil society organizations across five African nations to enhance evidence generation and advocacy for Family Planning and Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health, bolstering accountability.

In Uganda, we expanded immunization in the cattle corridor through cultural and religious partnerships and revitalized adolescent health in two districts through multisectoral engagement, reaching thousands with critical SRH information.

We advanced epidemic preparedness financing and strengthened MNCH supply chains across seven districts, collectively reinforcing resilient, equitable, and community-engaged health systems.



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PRIORITY AREAS & IMPACT

Advocacy and Accountability-Cornelia Asiimwe

At Samasha, advocacy drives meaningful change by strengthening accountability for women's and children's health. We empower civil society to influence policy, track commitments, and ensure that governments and partners uphold their obligations for sustainable health outcomes.



Figure 1: Executive Director-Cornelia Asiimwe addressing participants during the SASA launch in Nairobi, Kenya



Building Accountability for Women and Children's Health Across Africa

Civil society organizations (CSOs) are vital in advancing Family Planning (FP) and Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health (MNCH) across Africa. However, many struggle with a disconnect from national accountability processes, limiting their effectiveness in monitoring commitments and advocating for policy change.

To address this, Samasha, with support from the Gates Foundation, is implementing a three-year project to enhance CSO-led accountability for FP and MNCH across Kenya, Ethiopia, Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire, and Nigeria. This initiative involves strategic partnerships with organizations like the East Africa Reproductive Health Network (EARHN) and Smart Advocacy for Strategic Action (SASA).

This unified approach is improving the visibility and influence of CSOs, enabling them to hold governments accountable for their FP and MNCH commitments effectively

Improving Immunization Access in Uganda's Cattle Corridor

In Uganda's cattle corridor districts of Nakasongola, Luwero, Kyankwanzi, and Nakaseke, children from pastoralist communities were frequently left out of immunization services due to factors like mobility, entrenched beliefs, and mistrust toward the health system.

These barriers created enduring gaps in immunization, referred to as zero-dose pockets. Samasha responded by collaborating with cultural and religious leaders, village health teams (VHTs), and immunization champions, and the district health team to facilitate community dialogues and conduct targeted outreaches.

"In Kisozi village, some men have even beaten and undressed their wives for taking children for immunization, showing how deep-rooted gender and decision-making issues still affect our community." Tebukanya Fred LC1 chairperson Kisozi-Kyankwanzi district

Through systematic tracking of children who missed vaccinations, the team identified over 1,000 children with zero doses and incomplete immunization schedules and linked most of them to nearby healthcare facilities. This approach bolstered community trust and improved immunization uptake in hard-to-reach areas.



Figure 2 Community leaders during a pastoral dialogue meeting in Kyankwanzi district

Key Topic: Addressing Adolescent Health Challenges in Luwero and Kole Districts

Adolescent health issues remained a significant concern in Luwero and Kole districts, where teenage pregnancy rates reached alarming levels 29% in Kole and 17% in Luwero, with some areas like Ziobwe soaring to 27%. Gaps in coordination and limited engagement from subcounty leadership hindered efforts to mobilize schools and communities effectively.

In response, Samasha partnered with the Ministry of Health and the District Committee for Adolescent Health (DiCAHs) to empower subcounty chiefs as champions. Additionally, 20 health workers and 30 youth focal persons received training to deliver integrated outreach services. Ultimately, these efforts reached 4,267 young people with accurate sexual and reproductive health information, strengthening coordination and expanding access to youth-friendly services.

“Being part of this program allowed us to mobilize our communities, support our youth, and equip young people with the knowledge to make informed decisions about their health”.Boniface Owera-subcounty chief Okwerodot



Figure 3 Owera Boniface-subcounty chief in Okwerodot talking to young people

Health system strengthening-Eric Jemera Nabuguzi

Strong health systems are key to quality care. We focus on supply chains, workforce capacity, and data systems to ensure equitable access to reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health services

Advocacy Meets Global Health Security

Uganda’s recent outbreaks of diseases like Ebola (Sudan strain), Mpox, and Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) underscored its ongoing vulnerability. Despite this, investments in epidemic preparedness remained low, with projections indicating a decline in the FY 2025/26 budget allocation to UGX 1.53 trillion.

This funding gap jeopardized the nation's readiness to respond to future health crises. To counter this trend, Samasha, in partnership with the Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHA), the Ministry of Health (MoH), the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (MoFPED), the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), and various CSOs, worked to track health security funding, identify shortfalls, and advocate for proactive financing. These efforts raised epidemic preparedness as a national priority and strengthened the role of civil society in overseeing budget allocations.



Figure 4: Samasha, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Health and GHA during a budget review meeting for Epidemic Preparedness.

Strengthening Supply Chain under the WeCare project

Several districts in Uganda, including Jinja, Kamuli, Rwenzori, Fort Portal City, Kabarole, Kasese, and Kyegegwa, struggled with persistent stockouts, overstocks, and weak supply chain practices for maternal and child health commodities, which limited reliable service delivery.

To address this, Samasha partnered with Action 4 Health to sustain advocacy and strengthen district supply chains. Together, we conducted rapid assessments, developed tailored improvement plans, improved quantification, revitalized Medicines and Therapeutics Committees, and integrated supply chain management into routine supervision.

“For weeks, we faced shortages of Artemether/Lumefantrine despite high malaria cases among children. The training showed me how to find solutions,” Brian, Health Assistant.



Figure 5: Nyamirami HCIV team, including the HMIS Focal Person and Inventory Management Officer, reviewing supply chain updates and performance in Rwenzori Region

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SAMASHA IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Bili Now Now Youth Summit 2025

On July 10th–11th, 2025, the halls of Reach A Hand Uganda buzzed with energy, laughter, and purpose as young people from across the country gathered for the Bili Now Now Youth Summit.

In partnership with RAHU and CEHURD, Samasha proudly continued its mission to amplify youth voices and champion adolescent health across regional and continental platforms. The summit became a space for real conversations, shared dreams, and powerful ideas—fostering meaningful engagement and nurturing a new wave of Pan-African youth leadership.



Figure 6: Pictorial: Bili Now Now youth summit



Samasha at the 8th RHNK -Pan African Adolescent and youth SRHR conference

From June 24th–27th, 2025, our very own Adolescent Health Officer, Carolyne Nakandi, brought Samasha pride to Mombasa, presenting our abstract, “Strengthening Youth Advocacy through District Committees on Adolescent Health,” at the 8th Reproductive Health Network Kenya Pan-African Adolescent and Youth SRHR Scientific Conference at White Sands Sarova Hotel. The presentation sparked lively conversations about how youth-led structures can drive real change, proving that Samasha’s work is making waves beyond Uganda’s borders.

Youth Town Hall-Uganda Conference on Health Human Rights and Development

Samasha partnered with CEHURD and other organizations in convening a vibrant Youth Town Hall ahead of the Uganda Conference on Health, Human Rights, and Development. The Mestil Hotel halls buzzed with youthful energy as passionate young voices took the floor to discuss the social determinants of health and boldly assert that “youth deserve a seat at the table.”

The dialogue was not just talk, it shaped real action. The outcomes from the Town Hall fed directly into the main conference, where a Youth Declaration was signed, cementing the commitment to inclusive, youth-led advocacy in shaping Uganda’s health and human rights



Figure 7: Picture moments from the RHNK scientific conference

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VOICES FROM THE FIELD

1

Family planning activities are embedded in other programs, its hard to isolate the budget unless you are looking for it intentionally". Female KII participant Kasanda district

2

"As religious leaders, we have a duty to protect our communities. During prayer services, weddings, burials, and barazas, we must remind parents to vaccinate their children. Every time we speak, our words reach homes and save lives," urged Imam Hassan from Bambaala Parish, Kyankwanzi District



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“The DiCAH platform has made it easier for us to hold quarterly dialogues with evidence in hand. With support from partners, this platform belongs to the district, not just to specific projects.” – District Community Development Officer, Kole (DCDO)

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Now I can guide my peers with confidence on where to access youth-friendly services. But it’s not just me, our district youth platform is championing adolescent health in every dialogue.” – Youth Focal Person, Luwero

Media and Communications:

At Samasha, media is a strategic partner in driving change. Through our newsletter, school podcasts with Reach A Hand Uganda, digital and traditional platforms, and local radio partnerships, we amplified coalition voices and promoted immunization.

Media helped translate evidence into compelling stories, dispel myths, influence policy, and sustain community engagement, strengthening the reach and impact of our initiatives.



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COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION & ENGAGEMENT

Strengthening Immunization Uptake

As part of our commitment to giving back, Samasha led a focused community mobilization effort to increase immunization access in hotspot and pastoralist communities, targeting zero-dose and under-immunized children often missed due to mobility and limited services.

Working with district teams, we engaged community leaders and influencers to refine messages, mobilize families, and support child registration. We also selected and commissioned community immunization champions, trusted local actors who now lead ongoing mobilization. This effort strengthened community ownership and improved immunization uptake in underserved areas.



Figure 9 Samasha during a community dialogue session in Nakasongola district



Building Capacity, Strengthening Impact

In 2025, Samasha invested in its people. Through targeted trainings, mentorship, and peer learning, our team enhanced skills in advocacy, data use, and health systems strengthening, ensuring that our impact continues to grow from the inside out.



Figure 10: During one of our mentorship and team-building sessions with Elaine Jacobs and Cheryl Jacobs from the Leadership Academy of South Africa.

Celebrating New Beginnings

It wasn't all work and reports—2025 also brought us moments of joy! Our Samasha family grew a little bigger (and cuter) as one of our own welcomed a beautiful baby girl. A reminder that the work we do to improve maternal and child health is deeply personal, too.



2024/25 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



Strong internal governance is key to our credibility and impact. By fostering transparency, integrity, and accountability, Samasha ensures resources are used efficiently, even in the face of funding cuts, so we can continue advancing health outcomes in the Global South.



Fred Emolu.

Finance & Administration Manager



Revenue	2025	2024
	shs	shs
	2,574,704,946	1,164,350,159
Total Income	2,574,704,946	1,164,350,159
Expenditure		
Project Expenses	2,524,463,869	1,167,372,540
Administrative Expenses	40,388,222	3,503,344
Total Expenditure	2,564,852,091	1,170,875,884
Surplus from operating activities	9,852,856	6,525,722
Tax	8,060,422	
Total comprehensive surplus for the year	1,792,434	6,525,722

Get involved

Donate

Your financial support helps us continue our vital work, from grassroots advocacy to large-scale programs. Donations can be made as a one-time contribution or on a recurring basis.

Every donation, no matter the size, makes a difference. Your generosity enables us to reach more people and create lasting impact in the communities we serve. Reach out to us at info@samasha.org

Subscribe to our Newsletter

Through regular updates, you'll receive insights into our work, the latest news, success stories, upcoming events, and opportunities to get involved. Our newsletter keeps you connected to our mission and provides you with the information needed to make informed decisions about how you can support our efforts. It's an easy way to stay up-to-date with our activities and be a part of the conversation, driving impact.

Follow us on our socials

Follow us on social media to stay connected and be part of our growing online community. Social media platforms offer an easy way to amplify our message, raise awareness, and inspire others to take action. Your support in sharing our posts and engaging with our content helps extend our reach to a wider audience.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND PARTNERS



Samasha

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