



HER VOICE FUND

NARRATIVE CLOSE-OUT

REPORT 2022

Acknowledgements

Y+ Global and the HER Voice Fund team would like to thank every incredible, articulate and empowered Adolescent Girls and Young Woman who has been influencing change in structural systems, punitive laws and policies, gender and harmful norms that are related to our health and rights in our diversity. To our relentless grantees (AGYW-led/serving community-based organisations), Country Leads and HER Voice Fund Ambassadors, we are grateful for providing the safe environments and platforms to co-create and co-lead together with AGYWs as they tackle critical advocacy issues related to our health and well-being. We would also like to thank the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and ViiV Healthcare Positive Action for their ongoing support and their review and input into these amazing annual reports; and Programme Management Unit-Maximina Jokonya, Emilia Madzinga and Oliver Muindi, for generously sharing their time and expertise to support the success of this project.

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Poem written by Lelly Hamunyela – AGYW Namibia



*Isn't it provoking?
How you can literally blink three times and evolution has taken three of its turns;
How you can never get used to sleeping in a normal world
And always wake up to a devoured one;
How I yearn to breathe without care but rather dwell in fear of my losing my life.
We've had so much enough of the brutal reports,
And global action is what we call on.
Everything about violence is nothing close to a one-man show,
Everything about violence should beg for collective deed,
And nothing about violence is the victim's business alone.
16 days will never fix it,
But maybe, that's the focus we need to remind us.
16 days will never make up for it,
But maybe placing the issue in the spotlight of time is enough to instill some sense;
Enough to wake a soul;
Enough to open more eyes.
Maybe, 16 days of activism will be enough to push for rightful action throughout
the rest of every 365 days.*

1 Executive summary

The poem by Lelly Hamunyela in Namibia is a wake-up call to all of us, a call to ensure that the response by and for AGYW is central to tackling gender-based inequalities that affect our health and drive the HIV epidemic. It is no longer acceptable to consider AGYW response as an afterthought or as an intervention that can be implemented for a period of time. With ever-increasing inequalities, intersectionality coupled with environmental crisis, conflicts, and climate change, AGYW continue to be at the centre of a converging health crisis that threatens our health, safety, and well-being.

With this in mind, HER Voice Fund effort has aligned our efforts to leave no one behind, especially AGYW in rural areas, with more than 60% of our grantees implementing in rural/remote setups. In the 2021/2022 reporting period, we have shifted our focus to provide more support to in-country processes and impact, realised with support from ViiV Healthcare Positive Action and the Global Fund to fight HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis & Malaria (Global Fund). During this reporting period, HER Voice Fund Project Management Unit (PMU) awarded 94 grantees and country leads with an average of 5000 Euros per grantee in 13 priority countries: Botswana, Cameroon, Eswatini, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. This is an increase of 17 grantees from the 77 supported in the 2020 implementation period, representing a 22% increase.. This increase has resulted in increased geographical coverage and reached the community level, allowing us to support 34 874+ AGYW in our diversity to meaningfully participate and engage in decision-making platforms, from local to the national level, across 13 countries.

Our Priority: Ethical and meaningful engagement and participation of AGYW in our diversity

Investment for impact is the ultimate goal for every program. This resonates with our achievements against key outcomes resulting from support from ViiV Healthcare Positive Action and the Global Fund. In the 2021/22 implementation period, we facilitated and supported:

- 109 AGYW to engage in **CCM level meetings**
- 160 AGYW to engage in **National Strategic Plan** consultations
- 307 AGYW to engage in **Technical Working Groups**
- 882 AGYW participated in additional civil society meetings, and a further 2000+ engaged in other meetings related to HIV, gender, and sexual reproductive health and rights (SRHR) from the local to the national levels.

- **25 strategic advocacy agendas** were developed, and aligned with HER Voice Fund Country profiles aspirations
- A plethora of materials were produced, including **56 advocacy briefs** and **1709 campaign materials** which were used (and will continue to be used) for strengthening the participation of AGYW in key decision-making platforms.
- Talking about meaningful participation, **over 3% of 34 874+ AGYW hold positions of leadership and influence on national technical working groups and policy fora**, fulfilling positions such as vice-chair-person, chairperson, secretaries, lead mobilisers, and CCM board members.

HER Voice Fund 13 Ambassadors have participated in CCM meetings. with eight of them being members. **7 of our Country Leads** sit on the CCM, as either board members or alternate board members. In each country, **at least one of the grantees** belongs to a CCM constituency and has the opportunity to input and influence processes. **Country Leads and Ambassadors** had a coordination and implementation role of HER Voice Fund in 13 priority countries to ensure that the grantees' work aligns closely with our strategy; responds to the priorities of AGYW in all our diversity; and also contributes to achieving national targets relating to HIV, SRHR and AGYW programming.

HER Voice Fund developed a mentorship program known as **Ambassador Angels Programme initiated in August 2021**. The program extends and deepens the mentorship and support provided to Ambassadors by linking them with mentors known as 'Ambassador Angels', building the Ambassadors' skills and experience as they undertake their roles. Mentorship is the process of strengthening, informing, and empowering Ambassadors to be leaders, advancing advocacy to achieve policy change on issues that matter to AGYW. PMU identified prominent young women leaders who were previous HER Voice Fund Ambassadors and have experience in advocacy and key decision-making processes such as Country Coordinating Mechanisms (CCMs). [Ambassadors Angels](#) are based in the Africa region and, as such, are familiar with the context in which Ambassadors are carrying out their roles under the HER Voice Fund. Under the program, six Angels have been recruited, with each Angel mentoring two or three Ambassadors. PMU developed an Ambassador Angel Curriculum to help guide and structure the mentorship relationship, with clear goals to be achieved.





The mentorship program has already demonstrated significant achievements concerning the impact on Ambassadors. For instance, Ntabeleng, Ambassador for Namibia, identified the desire to strengthen her participation in the country's policy review processes as one of her mentorship goals. She was supported by her mentor to approach different policymakers (by email and face-to-face meetings) to express her willingness and expertise in representing AGYW in our diversity at key decision-making platforms. As a result, Ntabeleng participated in the mid-term HIV & AIDS National Strategic review on HIV and TB, led by the National AIDS Commission. She participated in the group that assessed progress/made recommendations in relation to the result area "Strengthened national social and child protection systems to ensure 75% of PLHIV, and those at risk of and affected by HIV benefit from HIV-sensitive social protection by 2023 and **"strengthened and Resilient community systems"**". Her participation ensured that the critical issues AGYW are facing post COVID 19 pandemic were adequately addressed and how systems, implementers, and donors should be ready to address them collectively.

The implementation of the Deep dive program – which started in August 2021- has resulted in important learning for HER Voice Fund Project. The purpose of the program is to provide intensive support in two pilot countries to strengthen and support AGYW involvement through the creation of AGYW inclusive taskforces, with a view to learning lessons that can be replicated more broadly across Her Voice Fund implementation countries. The programme was implemented in two different country contexts: Kenya - where AGYW engagement, capacity, and commitment are strong- and Mozambique - where AGYW engagement needs to be strengthened and supported. We witnessed AGYW inclusive taskforce created, comprising: AGYW living with HIV; young mothers; those who identify as Lesbians, Bisexual, Transgender, or Intersex; Young Sex Workers; Young women living in Informal Settlements; and Young women in the SRHR field.

In Mozambique, the taskforce comprises of 10 taskforce members, whilst in Kenya, it is comprised of 15 taskforce members. The taskforce led advocacy efforts that were informed by desk reviews to identify key gaps and needs. For example, the Kenya taskforce launched a national campaign: **Pick a mic tour** focusing on the sexual reproductive health and rights opportunities missed by policymakers, such as the need to revise the outdated Kenya AGYW Framework 2018-2020 to better address AGYW issues. In Mozambique, a similar AGYW taskforce was launched, focusing on the lack of AGYW engagement and participation at key decision platforms, resulting in the launch of an Advocacy campaign by REPSSI on 10th February 2022. The main theme of the campaign was **“we want greater engagement in decision-making processes about our future”**, targeting policymakers such as Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and Human Development, Secretary of State of Youth and Employment, the CCM focal person for civil society and the local journalists. Both of these campaigns are ongoing and will continue in the 2022 implementation period.

Digital technology and social media platforms such as WhatsApp have played a greater role – due in part to the Covid-19 pandemic- over this reporting period to promote the engagement of AGYW in their diversity, allowing more AGYW to be reached and facilitating the participation of AGYW in our diversity. One example is participation at virtual CCM meetings, where AGYW were supported with data bundles to participate as observers. This would not have happened through face-to-face meetings as usually these meetings will be limited in number. Social media platforms such as WhatsApp provide a safe space for AGYW to continuously interact on key issues that affect their lives and help to shape advocacy agendas. For example, YOCA developed a WhatsApp group with AGYW in 3 districts to advocate for a Youth Friendly Corner at a district hospital to strengthen access to SRH services for AGYW and young people without fear of being judged by health care professionals. The table below shows social media reach and engagement by AGYW over the reporting period:

Fig 1. social media reach and engagement by AGYW

	Cameroon	Mozambique	Tanzania	Uganda	Zambia	Zimbabwe	Eswatini	Lesotho	Malawi	Namibia	Botswana	Kenya	South Africa
	1,186	0	5	1,317	1,278	5,578	787	5,027	2,387	525	30	3,595	60
	5,717	0	0	50	50	4,610	0	0	15	100	4	2,367	0
	815	597	45	141	145	747	45	48	144	302	71	1,729	98
	2,787	0	0	25	0	1,060	0	0	100	74	3	5,113	0

To achieve these milestones, HER Voice Fund has also focused on **strengthening our organisational systems** over the reporting period to ensure that we have all the policies and procedures in place to support onward granting and program implementation, and including small grants disbursement procedures, due diligence procedures, safeguarding policy, and the development of a program implementation map. HER Voice Fund PMU also put in place systems to facilitate effective support and mentorship, with the main focus on; **Linking and Learning platforms** to enhance understanding and increase learning amongst the grantees in 13 countries. MEAL Officer joined Y+ Global in August 2021 which further supported the management and reporting mechanisms for grantees across 13 countries. Engagement of Global Fund AGYW Advisors has been instrumental in connecting HER Voice Fund Ambassadors and grantees in Global Fund country processes for collaborations and linking and learnings.

A key organisational highlight was the launch of HER Voice Fund Strategy 2022-2025: Voice, Power, and Purpose, establishing a clear roadmap and objectives to guide the organisation. Over the next four years, HER Voice Fund and its grantees will become stronger, bolder, better connected, even more effective and more sustainably resourced for the future in order to continue playing a key role in reducing HIV incidence amongst AGYW and improving our broader health, wellbeing, and rights. Collectively, we will be better able to address the priority issues voiced repeatedly by AGYW during our consultation process:

1. HIV prevention, and support for those living with HIV
2. AGYW-friendly HIV and SRHR services, treatment, care and support
3. Prevention of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), and support for survivors
4. Prevention of unintended pregnancy and early marriage, and support for young mothers
5. Economic empowerment and livelihood opportunities.

These priorities align with the Country Profiles aspirations developed by PMU in 2020. These aspirations, together with priorities highlighted in the HER Voice Fund Strategy, will be the focus for 2022-2025 implementation period.

Key lessons learnt for 2021/22 period

- Expanding the number of grantees in Mozambique, Namibia, Eswatini and Lesotho has allowed scale-up of coverage and reach in relation to engagement and participation of AGYW at key decision-making platforms. For example, in Lesotho, in the first quarter AGYW were supported to participate in 10 decision-making events. After taking on 4 more grantees in the second quarter, this number increased to 52 processes and events. **This lesson also aligns with one of our strategic objectives for 2023-2025 to increase the number of grantees and provide larger grants to established, high-performing partners which will allow HER Voice Fund to achieve greater impact.**
- HER Voice Fund has been more intentional and strategic in defining key decision-making platforms such as CCM, NSP, TWGs, and other policy review

processes related to AGYW's health and rights. This has enabled us to invest time and effort more purposefully and strategically to make the most impact and channel more energy towards that. This has resulted in continuous engagement rather than once-off meetings, with a greater ability to influence processes by prioritizing the crucial issues of AGYW.

- Deep Dive program provides an important opportunity for us to learn lessons from 2 focused countries (Kenya and Mozambique) (see indicator 9) that can be further explored and adapted to each country's context to extend the program's learning and impact.
- Using hashtags and social media platforms effectively provides a valuable opportunity to amplify our reach and messages. #HERVoiceFund and #Aiming Higher have yielded huge returns with over +80 000 reach across all Y+ Global social media platforms. There is more opportunity to analyze impact further and reach in relation to HER Voice Fund.
- The process of developing HER Voice Fund Strategy 2022-2025 : Voice, Power and Purpose provided an important opportunity to engage with all our key stakeholders – AGYW in their diversity, grantees, national policymakers, and our key donors- to ensure a shared vision, priorities and key objectives to guide the future development of the Fund.

Challenges and issues

COVID 19 remained a constant threat and challenge during the period under review across all 13 countries. Grantees had to continue innovating to engage and serve AGYW in their diversity consistently. In addition, countries like Eswatini and South Africa experienced civil unrest, which further posed challenges to the implementation of activities. **In addressing this challenge, HER Voice Fund implemented**

1. Use of online media platforms such as Zoom, Facebook, and WhatsApp to carry out meetings and workshops;
2. Use of phone calls and messaging to provide mentorship and support or AGYW.

At PMU level, we were faced with a suspected case of sexual harassment in Malawi, with one of our AGYW being a survivor. HER Voice Fund collaborated with REPSSI for psychosocial provision of AGYW with 8 sessions completed.

At the national and local level, additional challenges faced by grantees included:

- **LGBTQ inclusion and recognition in ongoing programming:** TEDDY Bear (grantee in South Africa) highlighted that one of the groups has a young woman who identifies as a lesbian. It was difficult for the group to understand the issues she faces daily basis. The young woman stepped up by sharing her lived experience and educated the rest of the group on the crucial aspects of LGBTQ inclusion across the spectrum of the HIV response.
- **The costs of items increased as a result of COVID-19:** COVID 19 also increased the cost of activities, especially services like meeting meals, venue hire etc. **As a way of addressing this;** grantees worked with health facilities and district health team since we already have a good working relationship with them to offer some facilities for free like venue.

- **Patriarchy and heteronormative practices and systems:** These continue to sideline young queer women from effectively taking part in decision-making processes. As a way of addressing this, a dialogue was convened, talking about identifying injustices, and unpacking inclusive and intersectional advocacy on a live Facebook session in July. As a result, three partners reached out to LEGABIBO: 2 healthcare centres, Bontleng Youth Clinic and Jubilee clinic's psychiatry and mental health centre. The partners will be taking in AGYW clients through referrals from LEGABIBO, and providing SRH and other health services.

HER Voice Fund 2022 Opportunities

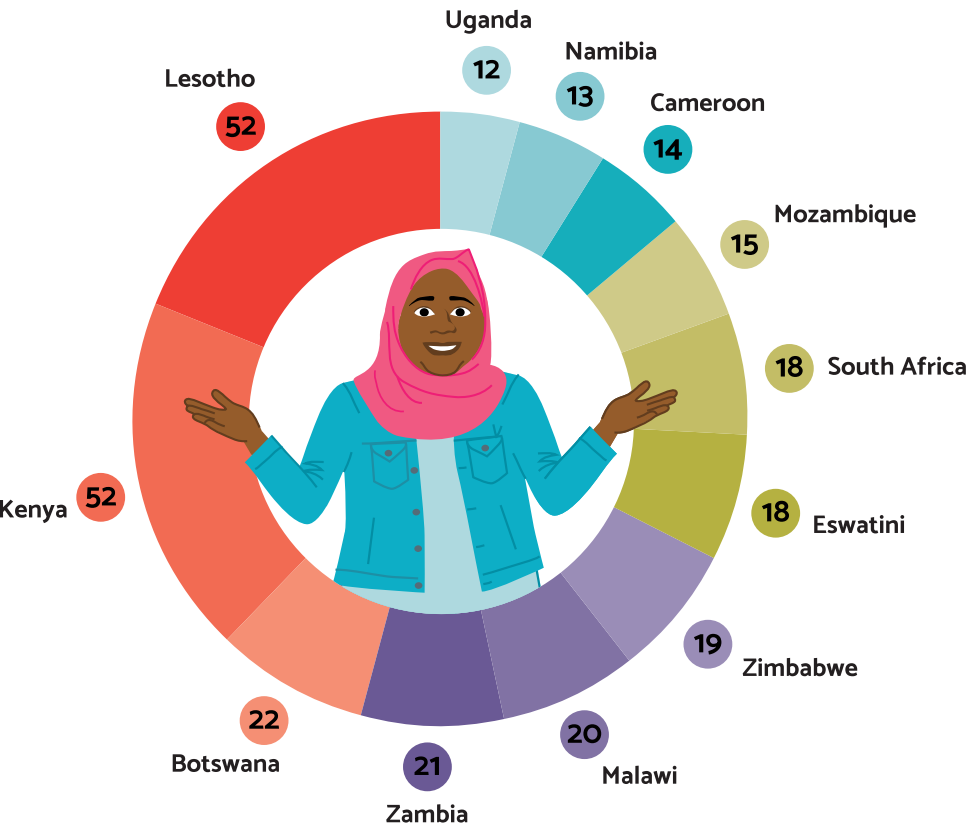
- HER Voice Fund strategy provides a clear framework to change non-gender-transformative laws and policies, processes, and events related to the health and rights of adolescent girls and young women from local, subnational to national levels.
- With interventions and service delivery moving online as a result of Covid 19, there is an opportunity for HER Voice Fund to develop the 1 pager on how to achieve impact through this modality. Some meetings will continue to occur online, which opens up a space for AGYW to participate and the need for HER Voice Fund to support with adequate data bundles. There is further opportunity for HER Voice Fund to launch a research study to demystify the notion that AGYW in rural areas cannot participate through social media platforms. This can be followed throughout the year, data collected at each quarter, and the final results analysed in December 2022.
- Leadership component and Ambassador mentorship will be crucial in leading HER Voice Fund initiative, being the face, experts, and having ownership of the program. Their input and leadership will be critical to propelling HER Voice Fund to the next level. There is a need for greater focus on sustained campaigns, using social media effectively to drive advocacy. It will be ideal to engage the technical giants (Apple, Google) at e.g. Silicon Valley meeting so that analysis of reach can be further explored and analysed to accredit impact at the end of each campaign. However, this would require extra funding.
- HER Voice Fund will continue to be more deliberate in engaging AGYW in our diversity: identifying as transgender AGYW, young women selling sex; identifying as people who use drugs, particularly young women; AGYW living with HIV; identifying as lesbians or women who have sex with other women; AGYW with disabilities; AGYW internally displaced through civil war and refugee camps; AGYW living in fishing camps areas which are high 'hotspots' for HIV infection and other AGYW with their focus on SRHR, HIV prevention, GBV.
- Engagement and visibility in the Global Fund Replenishment (which should ultimately secure more funding for AGYW engagement and programming and establish links with other donors).
- Strategic opportunities for HER Voice Fund to engage in discussions with new and existing donors e.g. Gender Fund, potential continuity from Viiv Healthcare and the Global Fund, and other donors.

2 Progress on outcome one

Participation of AGYW in policy, advocacy and decision-making fora is amplified and strengthened

2.1 Number of national and sub-national bodies, processes, and events where AGYW participated through HER Voice Fund resources

Fig 2. Number of national and sub-national bodies, processes and events where AGYW participated through HER Voice Fund resources.



The pie chart above illustrates 284 key decision-making events and processes related to policy reviews; implementation of AGYW programming; national strategic plans amongst others where AGYW were supported to participate. The crucial aspect of AGYW engagement and participation in these processes and events was based upon sustained engagement rather than one-off participation. The focus was on critical policies, interventions, and strategic funding meetings such as COVID 19 strategic meetings which were crucial for AGYW continuous participation. Media and the use of

digital technology enabled AGYWs to participate in these processes and events at a greater scale than previously, across multiple locations. The tremendous engagement and participation made by grantees in supporting AGYW participation would not be possible without the support of partners and the enormous commitment and efforts in collaborating with HER Voice Fund.

Kenya and Lesotho shared the highest number of 52 processes and events where AGYW participated. Examples included County Executive Committees, Technical Working Groups, Nairobi County Health Budgeting Committee, and Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (ASRHR), PEPFAR COP22 CSOs Consultancy Workshops, National AIDS Commission quarterly meetings. International days included the 16 days of Activism, International Youth Day, World AIDS Day, and strategy review meetings. Kenya and Lesotho excelled in creating strategic partnerships and drove an ambitious communication and thought leadership agenda by continued engagement with key stakeholders: holding quarterly meetings on progress updates, submitting monthly reports, and inviting ministerial representatives during the implementation of activities in the field from local to national level.

For instance, in Kenya-Rising winners managed to support an **Adolescent Girls and Young Women champions'-led round table meeting with the Director of Health, County Government of Kilifi, and the County AYPSRHR/HIV Focal Person (Reproductive Health Coordinator)**. The AGYW delivered the three asks (detailed below) to accelerate ethical and meaningful AGYW engagement in Kilifi South Sub County. Several meetings took place to *advocate for the establishment of an AGYW specific Council, to roll out community-based comprehensive sexuality education through the Youth Friendly Centres, and deliberate integration of AGYW into the key SRHR/HIV/AIDS decision making and policy implementation platforms*. As a result, Kilifi County AGYW Council was established to spearhead some of the proposed asks from the broader youth, including AGYW. This is a great platform for AGYW to share, prioritise, and engage with the Department of Health and the Department of Gender and Youth Affairs, enabling sustainable ethical and meaningful engagement. The County Executive Committee Member (CECM) requested the AGYW to develop a roadmap with the Reproductive Health Coordinator for the establishment of the AGYW Council in partnership with the Department of Gender and Youth Affairs, with plans to re-open three youth-friendly corner in Kilifi county. The CECM will lead the round-table committee with the Gender and Youth Affairs with plans to launch the AGYW Council in April.

This example from Kenya illustrates HER Voice Fund's approach of continuous engagement and commitment from key stakeholders, Government Ministries, and donors-deliberately cascading down critical information on the project to provincial, district, and local level, promoting an increase in engagement of AGYW at different key decision-making platforms. This has also been the case in Botswana, Malawi, Zimbabwe, South Africa, and Zambia where there is tremendous support from stakeholders-resulting in significant numbers of processes and national to sub-national events where AGYW were supported to participate. In Namibia, Eswatini, and Malawi, AGYW engagement has significantly improved in the final two quarters of the period under review. HER Voice Fund PMU supported these specific countries to develop accelerated plans and identified key events and processes where AGYW could participate meaningfully. Platforms such as CCM and other Technical Working Groups slowly opened to welcome the engagement and participation of AGYW in these countries. For example, the engagement of the CCM focal person in Eswatini opened

space for the country lead to participate in the processes and paved the way for local grantees to be engaged in these processes, including a CCM workshop on the 10th of March 2022.

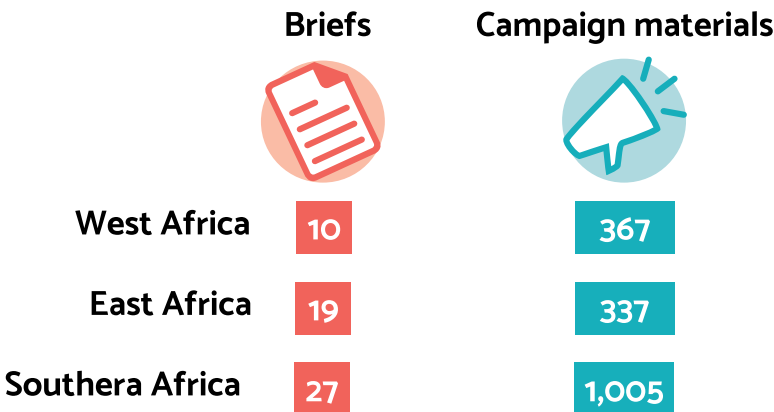


SPOTLIGHT: CAMEROON
Education Plus Initiative

Three (3) AGYW participated in the Education Plus initiative consultation which was launched by the Prime Minister in Cameroon and attended by the Minister of Public Health, Minister of Secondary Education and many other stakeholders. One of the AGYW representatives gave a presentation on the needs of AGYW living with HIV and including school fees incentives which promote AGYW to continue with their education. Through tremendous advocacy efforts, Leap Girls- a grantee in Cameroon - was awarded a grant to lead the implementation of the Education Plus Initiative in Cameroon. Their interventions will focus on in-school programming. This collaboration has created an opportunity for movement building with key collaborators being Leap Girl, UNAIDS, UN Women- championing the need for comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) in Cameroon. The road map conceptualization for the Education Plus Initiative Cameroon resulted in partnership building between the Ministry of Secondary Education and a UNFPA coalition of youth-based organisations. Leap Girl plan to continue collaborating with this initiative in 2022 through support from HER Voice Fund.

2.2 Number of briefs or campaign materials that have been produced and used at these events to strengthen participation

Fig 3. Number of briefs and campaign materials



The infographic above illustrates the plethora of materials developed over this reporting period, including 56 briefs and 1709 campaign materials which were used (and will continue to be used) to strengthen the participation of AGYW at key decision-making platforms. Southern region managed to develop an array of materials including 27 briefs and 1005 campaign materials; key driving countries were Zambia, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. A country of significant improvement for the year is Mozambique which produced 6 briefs and 74 campaign materials. One of the key drivers was the addition of 6 new grantees to the existing 3. There is a significant

improvement in collaborations and engagement of key stakeholders, including CCM representatives, and collaborations with READY+ projects. A specific partner - PAAJ - has been strengthening relationship building amongst grantees and other key civil society organisation in AGYW programming. For instance, during this period APAPURG, a grantee in Mozambique, together with the project mentors spearheaded a campaign aimed at meaningful engagement of AGYW in key decision making platforms-“Make space for us”- involving a wide range of Government entities (e.g. police officers, attorneys, children’s parliament, local leaders etc) and CBOs. (. As a result of the campaign, three cases of sexual violence and premature unions were identified by APAPURG to be addressed holistically (a 16-year-old girl who suffered from family pressure to marry an older man of 64 years old; a 14 -year-old pregnant girl without financial means to support herself since her family also is economically vulnerable; a 12-year-old girl also with early pregnancy, forced to marry her boyfriend even younger.

The involvement of AGYW in the development and dissemination of these materials is vital to ensure their impact across the 13 countries. Millicent Sithaile, Ambassador for Botswana, highlighted in a recent assessment conducted by PMU that capacity building is not sufficient on its own, but the application of skills, knowledge, and confidence gained by AGYW are required to continuously drive advocacy from local to national level. This resonates with the exceptional work championed by grantees in building capacity of AGYW and continuously supporting them to be innovative and confident in voicing their priorities through a plethora of materials.

2.3 Number of case studies produced capturing AGYW participation, learning, and outcomes

Fig 4. Number of AGYW experiences captured



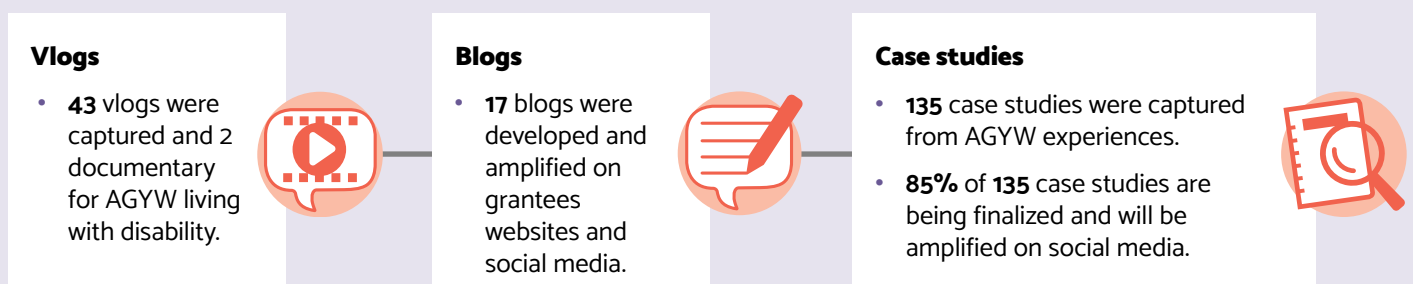
The infographic illustrates a total number of 195 AGYW experiences captured in form of vlogs, blogs and case studies. Countries such as Kenya, Lesotho, Uganda and Cameroon have managed to capture experiences of AGYW comprehensively compared to other countries. Case studies (135) had the highest yield compared to blogs (17) and vlogs (43).

Some of the key issues highlighted by grantees related to vlogs and blogs included:

1. Lack of capacity, skills and knowledge on capturing and development of vlogs and blogs
2. Not aware on different platforms to post and amplify these vlogs and blogs
3. The difference between blogs and case studies

HER Voice Fund PMU, as a mitigation, are going to conduct two trainings on blogs and vlogs with grantees in April with communication leads.

HER Voice Fund is going to develop a hub for AGYW materials and tools that can be used in meaningful engagement of AGYW in Africa, based on what has been contributed by AGYW themselves.



The infographic above illustrates a total of 195 experiences of AGYW captured as a result of participating in HER Voice Fund supported activities, including 135 case studies were produced across 13 countries. Countries like Kenya (24), Lesotho (22) Cameroon (15) Kenya excelled in the development of these case studies, strengthening the voice of AGYW in our diversity. The case studies demonstrate different intersectionality and inform how our programming should be person-centred, addressing unique needs with a differentiated approach. HER Voice Fund has been instrumental to meeting these needs, demonstrated by this case study example below:



CASE STUDY

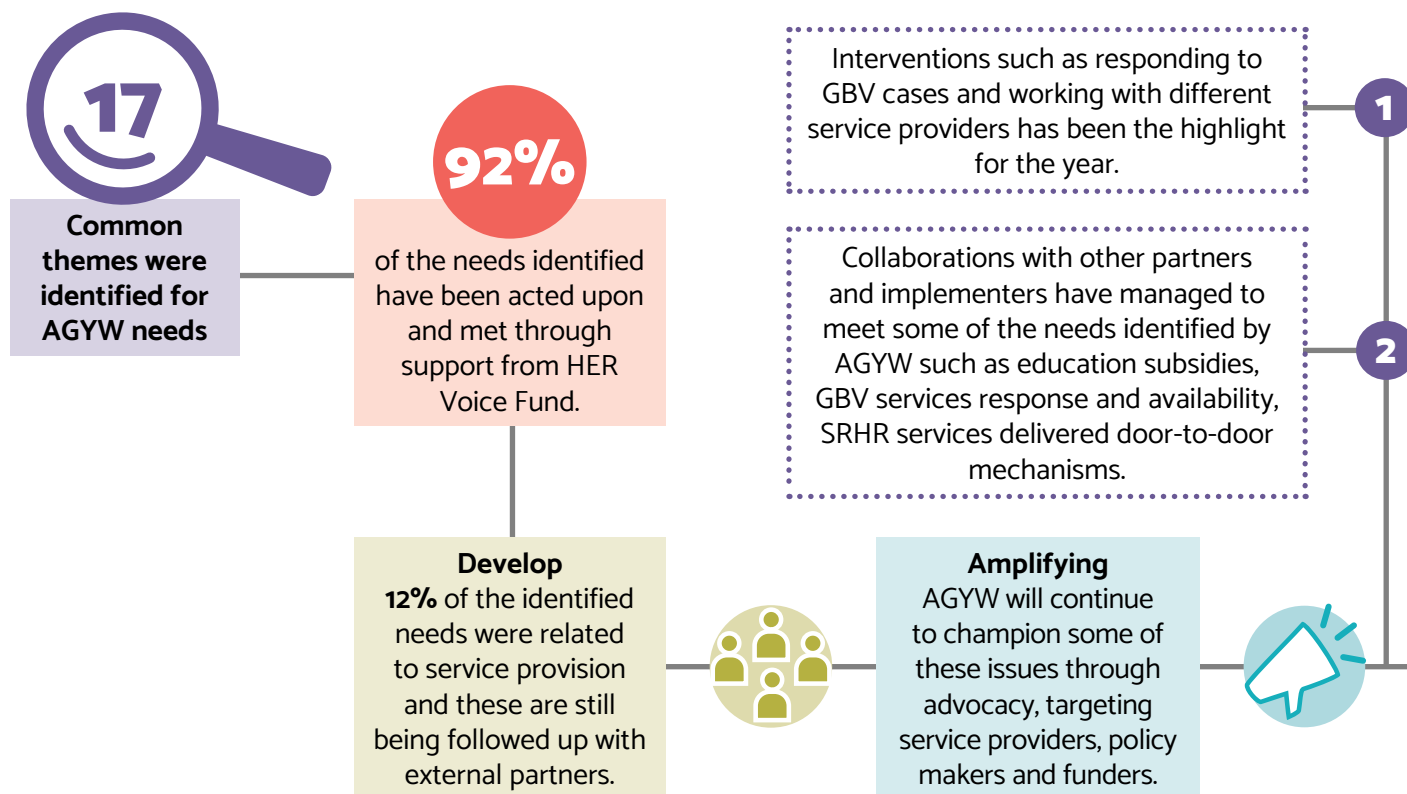
Inclusion and Access – Essential for us too!

Rural transgender young women, transgender young sex workers and gender diverse youth often have the least access to the SRH information, care and services they need to protect their sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) in the available health care facilities, despite having some of the greatest needs. This is attributed to deeply embedded conservative social norms and a highly restrictive legal environment for LGBTI communities in Uganda. Rural transgender young women, transgender young sex workers and gender diverse youth seeking sexual and reproductive health care often fear that they will be treated in ways that are disrespectful or judgmental because of their gender identities or sexual choices, or because aspects of their bodies may not conform to gender norms. Most of the existing interventions combine these young transgender/gender diverse young people with men who have sex with men, including development partners whose interventions are data driven.

TYI-Uganda, as a result of the engagement and empowerment of rural transgender young women, transgender young sex workers through HER Voice Fund, supported activities to advocate for inclusion and access to services by AGYW in all their diversity. They engaged with district health representatives, representatives from health facilities and Uganda AIDS Commission Mbarara to discuss how best to meet the specific SRHR needs of key populations, including people who are transgender, and ensure equal access to HIV and SRHR related services for key populations in western Uganda. This resulted in three health care facilities identifying community-based peers- including rural transgender young women and transgender young sex workers -to be attached to the facilities to ensure greater access to SRHR and HIV support for key populations. As a consequence, health services report an increase in rural transgender young women, transgender young sex workers and gender diverse youth communities' demand and access to quality comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services and information.

2.4 Number of training/mentorship needs identified by AGYW that have been met through HER Voice Fund resources

Fig 5. Training/mentorship needs identified by AGYW that have been met through HER Voice Fund resources



In the reporting period, 17 themes were identified, including responding to Gender-Based Violence, access to sexual reproductive health services, and advocacy process amongst other topics. Grantees co-developed and co-designed a curriculum, which guided and strengthened the training and mentorship of AGYW in our diversity. 12% of the identified needs were related to service provision, such as psychosocial support to gender-based violence survivors, and these were reported to other partners who are offering those services. The other needs were aligned with the new HER Voice Strategy: AGYW-friendly HIV and SRHR services, treatment, care, and support. AGYW translated these into advocacy efforts. HER Voice Fund acknowledges that addressing some of these needs is a longer-term process, and we will continue to engage AGYW in our diversity for 2022, to continue to take action on these issues.



SPOTLIGHT: BOTSWANA **Need for training on mental health and well-being.**

In Botswana, Inspired Horizons Association (IHA) implemented numerous engagements with young mothers via WhatsApp group, which resulted in many of them highlighting the difficulties in transitioning into motherhood, and associated mental health challenges. IHA prioritised a capacity building workshop led by a Psychologist, Dr. Layani Makwinja and a Managing Director of a leading Fin-tech, Ms. Lulu Rasebotsa, who became a mother at a young age, to inspire them. In total, IHA managed to reach 32 young mothers, through virtual trainings.

As an outcome from the training, there was a need for psycho-social support beyond the group but on an individual level. However, as a result of poor community-health system strengthening, there was a huge gap in the referral pathways. It was a challenge to refer AGYW to other facilities such as the police, youth friendly clinics and safe spaces for shelter (in case of GBV) because of trust issues.

As a way of overcoming this:

- When referring AGYW, IHA accompanied them to the facilities to access services.
- IHA started inviting its partners to activities for building rapport with AGYW, hence making the referrals easy and smooth.
- IHA strengthened the referral system and made AGYW aware of it.

As a result:

- IHA managed to assist 3 AGYW to connect with the Botswana GBV Prevention and Support Centre (BGBVC)
- Assisted 1 AGYW to get admitted at Sbrana Psychiatric Hospital, when she was suicidal
- Connected 6 young mothers with in-house therapist, who is also the Supervisor of the Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Sport and Culture Development's Tele counselling On Air programme, Dr. Layani Makwinja

Through the consistency of service provision championed by IHA, young mothers continued to reach out even in the middle of the night, as some were experiencing GBV at their homes during those hours. IHA furthered service provision by having an in-house therapist and strengthened its relations with the Botswana GBV Prevention and Support Centre (BGBVC), and local social welfare office.

3 Progress on outcome two

The design, implementation and oversight of relevant national and district costed plans adequately reflect and respond to realities of AGYW

3.1 The process of developing an advocacy agenda for AGYW has been supported and resourced

HER Voice Fund has been strategically supporting AGYW, championing their voice to have an equal opportunity to engage and participate in key decision-making platforms. In aligning with the new Y+ Global strategy pillar 1: **Raise our Voice**, there is no doubt about the need to address the key drivers and barriers that prevent AGYW from participating equally and having a voice at key decision-making platforms. Gender equality, intersectionality, and harmful gender norms continue to be significant challenges affecting AGYW's diversity.

In total, 25 strategic advocacy agendas have been developed with over 34,874 AGYW leading and participating in the process across the 13 priority countries. The advocacy agendas have been developed aligned with and adapted from the 13 country profiles aspirations developed in 2020 **HER Voice Fund Country profiles**. Thanks to its strong thought AGYW leadership, HER Voice Fund is successfully harnessing and raising their voices in 13 African priority countries against all inequalities and lack of access to services-directing the HIV response attention to the needs of AGYW in our diversity. Part of this improvement is attributed to heightened advocacy calling for policymakers, donors, and government entities to be accountable and take the lead in meeting the AGYW needs.

To push for change in some of these issues affecting AGYW, HER Voice Fund accelerated its advocacy work to change non-gender-transformative laws and policies, processes and events related to the health and rights of AGYW from local, subnational to national levels. The advocacy process was accompanied by releasing position statements, briefs, and petition papers on AGYW health and rights-related issues and participating in international platforms such as the ICASA 2021, where we were able to amplify AGYW voices.

The process of developing an advocacy agenda in each country was led by AGYW, with support from grantees and partners, including key stakeholders and policymakers. The advocacy agenda was informed by each country's individual profile that was developed in 2020. In Zimbabwe, HOPE for Adolescents and Youth supported 20 AGYW to develop an advocacy agenda with the objective: To increase meaningful AGYW participation in development processes at national level with a special focus on national Budget Allocation to support AGYW's participation in development processes. **This objective aligns with Zimbabwe Aspiration goal 2: Strengthen and harmonise all adolescent sexual reproductive health policy and legal frameworks.** (see the advocacy agenda: [HOPE-HER VOICE Advocacy Action Plan](#)).



SPOTLIGHT: MALAWI

Construction of Youth Resource Centre in the District.

AGYW championed the initiative by engaging duty bearers, Civil Society Organisations and Media houses in advocating for the allocation of resources in the district development fund towards the construction of a youth resource centre in the district. AGYW, in collaboration with other youths in the district, have been demanding for a youth resource centre since 2018 but despite efforts, no resources were allocated, and the project faced political interference, delaying budget approval.

In 2021, young people were determined to take a very strategic approach to advocate for this centre. Firstly, they sought to understand how local governing bodies under the district council operate in regard to development. The targeted structures included the Village Development Committee, Area Development Committee and the Health Centre Management Committee. AGYWs met with these committees, together with other district stakeholders from the health and youth sectors including civil society organisations and received support from key stakeholders. They were advised that they should also approach key decision makers in the district.

A youth advocate group was then established, comprising an increased number of youths mobilised to support the agenda. Through several engagement meetings, they resolved to petition the District Commissioner to allocate some resources from the District Development Fund towards the construction of the resource centre. They collected data from the social welfare, police, court and the district hospital on several indicators showing the negative impact of the lack of youth resource centres. The data was used to support the petition which was delivered to the District Commissioner and the Director of Planning and Development. The petition was discussed, and young people were assured that it would be considered in the next financial year. The media team was present and later produced a newsletter article and also aired on the community radio.

In January 2022, the District Secretariat considered including the youth resource centre in the district's annual budget for 2022/2023. Through HVF's engagement, the centre was later confirmed by the District Youth Officer, with the council approving the budget for its construction, which began on April 1st, 2022.

3.2 An AGYW-endorsed advocacy agenda, supported through HER Voice Fund, has been used to inform Global Fund and other national-level decision-making bodies, processes and events

The 25 AGYW-endorsed advocacy agendas were used at different events and processes that matter to AGYW health and rights. These agendas have been used in influencing the 15 Global Fund and/or CCM meetings where AGYW participated and shared their priorities. It is worth mentioning that country leads in Kenya, Uganda, Zambia, Lesotho, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, and Botswana have seats within CCM as board members or alternate board members. This has facilitated the inclusion of AGYW priorities in the advocacy agendas presented during these processes and

meetings. For example, In Lesotho, an AGYW -endorsed advocacy agenda was championed to inform the quarterly CCM meeting. MFDF, a grantee in Lesotho, sits on the CCM, and they invited one of the AGYW representatives to present on the asks consolidated by AGYWs. The advocacy objective was for the CCM to influence through HER Voice Fund, AGYW participation and engagement in District Health Management Teams (DHMTs), monitoring of implementation, existence, and services provided at Adolescent Corners in Health Centres for AGYW. The AGYW reported a violation of their rights as a result of poor service offered by relevant local clinics and service providers; having AGYW at DHMTs will give their voices a chance to be heard, and issues addressed. The Ministry of Health was present in the meeting and proposed to discuss the inclusion of AGYW within DHMTs to ensure that these issues can be raised and addressed through these structures.

3.3 AGYW representatives (including Ambassadors) have been supported to participate in relevant decision-making and consultative fora, including CCMs, NSPs, TWGs, and civil society meetings through the development of speaking notes, advocacy briefs, presentations etc.

The recently published Global Fund result report 2021 highlighted that there had been great progress in the adoption of national strategies for AGYW in the 13 priority countries. The same report acknowledges the efforts being driven by HER Voice Fund as a strategic initiative that has catalysed collaborations and partnerships to support girls and women to play a critical role in the HIV response. Despite COVID-19, HER Voice Fund managed to support AGYW to engage in key decision-making platforms. 109 AGYW engaged in CCM level meetings, 160 AGYW engaged in National Strategic Plan consultations, 307 engaged in Technical Working groups, 882 at civil society meetings, and 2000+ other meetings related to HIV, gender, and sexual reproductive health and rights (SRHR) from the local to the national levels. The most significant reason why disparities in the AGYW HIV response remain stark and AGYW continue to fall through the cracks is the failure to address administrative, logistics, and language barriers, which prevent meaningful and ethical engagement of AGYW at key decision-making platforms.

HER Voice Fund has addressed these challenges by providing support with logistics, administrative, and language mechanisms, strengthening AGYW participation in key decision-making platforms. The briefs and advocacy materials can be found in the [‘We Are The Change’](#), a capacity-building curriculum for community-based organisations working with and for AGYW, which was instrumental in building their leadership and influence in decision-making bodies. For instance, AGYW living with disability in Uganda was supported by IDIWA to develop a documentary that highlighted the challenges and proposed recommendations on how these can be addressed. The AGYW had an opportunity to present the documentary during the quarterly Kaliro Health Management Taskforce, comprising many key stakeholders. One of the documented stories featured Elesi (pseudonym) worst experience where she was denied a chance to study a nursing course by the principal of a nursing school in Kaliro District because of her disability. The District Education Officer (DEO) who was in attendance followed up the issue and Elesi was given a bursary by Kaliro District to take on the course she had always wanted at a nursing school in Iganga District, a neighbouring district to Kaliro. She is looking forward to her internship, which is anticipated for mid-April 2022.

3.4 AGYW participation and engagement, supported through HER Voice Fund, has influenced strategy and program design, implementation or oversight

AGYW engagement in program design, strategy revision, implementation, and oversight is crucial in addressing needs related to their health and rights and UNAIDS Executive Director during the Global AIDS report launch highlighted the importance of having communities, advocates and activists front and centre, driving key interventions and programs.

AGYW in their diversity, actively contributed to key strategies, program design, and implementation related to their health and rights, particularly focusing on SRHR, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, and access to HIV prevention and treatment. Not forgetting the intersectionality that is brought about both by COVID 19 and HIV, AGYW needed to confront the emerging issues and made sure that they are included from program design to oversight.

For instance, ZYP in Zambia supported 15 AGYW to attend National Health Programming Engagements with the Country Coordinating Mechanism, which included

1. Key Informant interviews with the District health Coordinator and the District Commissioner, in which one AGYW took part.
2. Dialogue process for the Covid 19 budget-writing where 15 AGYW participated.

In Lesotho, She Hive supported two AGYW to participate in the Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights and Budget Monitoring meeting on Accountability Literacy hosted by The Global Hope Mobilisation, Women's Law Clinic, and International Youth Alliance for Family Planning. The objective was to empower CSOs to successfully monitor and/or detect national fiscal allocations, consequently aiding organizations to;

1. lobby with authorities for improved delivery of SRH services,
2. claim accountability,
3. Gain transparency on allocated resources,
4. Design accountability tools such as scorecards,
5. Learn how to use such scorecards in engaging relevant stakeholders in advocacy, lobbying, policy formulation, and law reform and
6. Input to realization of and relevant SDGs and national and international commitments and conventions.

Looking into the future, AGYW in our diversity, will have an opportunity to influence the recently launched Global Fund replenishment investment case. HER Voice Fund has several activities planned, including a social media campaign with a #WhatMattersforAGYW where AGYW will be sharing their achievements-benefitting from the Fund and why it is important for projects such as HER Voice Fund to continue receiving funding. More concrete plans will be shared in the 2022 first-quarter reporting period.

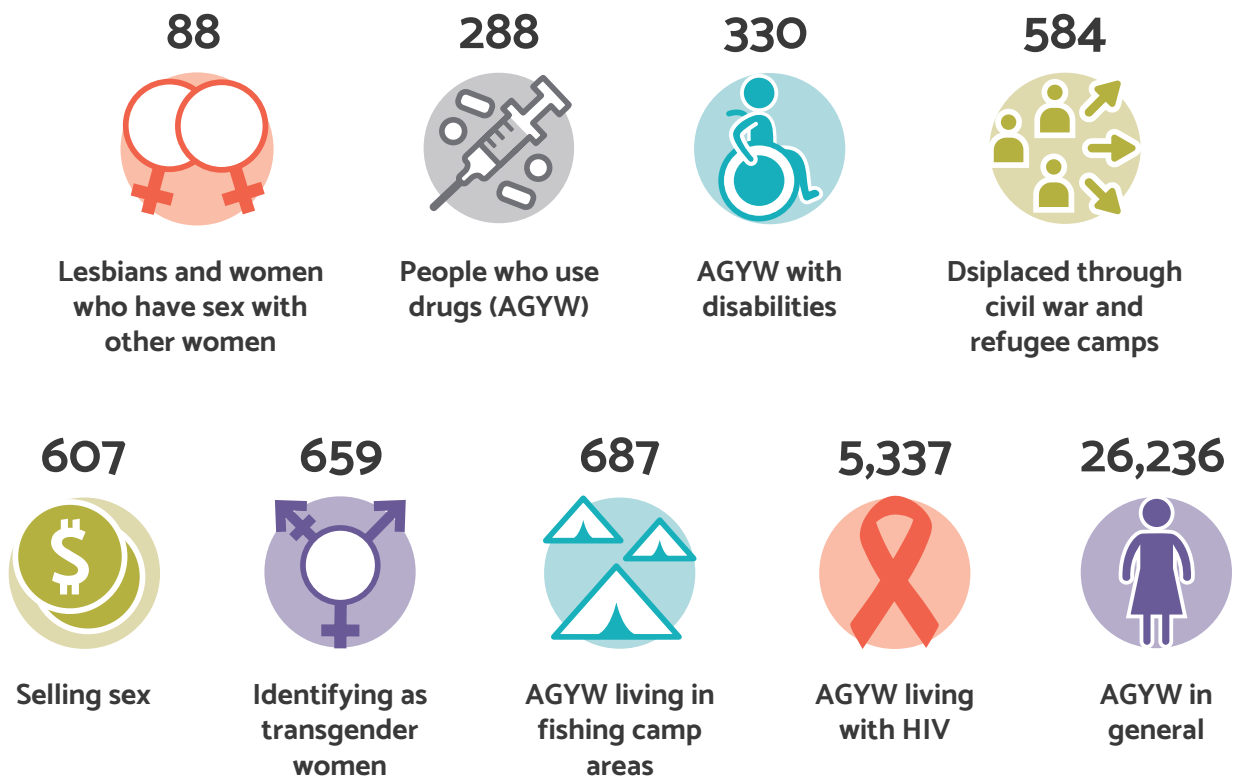
4 Progress on ViiV Healthcare's Positive Action Indicators on HER Voice Fund main service Agreement

4.1 Key ViiV Healthcare positive Action

Fig 6. Key ViiV Healthcare positive Action



Fig 7. Key ViiV Healthcare positive Action



5 Progress on HER Voice Fund Leadership Program

5.1 The process of capacity building of Ambassadors, measuring confidence and skills over time

HER Voice Fund Ambassadors in a partnership involving Positive Young Women Voices (PYWV), the Global Network of Young People Living with HIV (Y+ Global), and the African Youth and Adolescents Network (AfriYAN), and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and Education Initiative Nerve Centre contributed their expertise and experiences in the development of the Flourish Toolkit by participating virtually and leading in-country consultative processes. The recently launched [Flourish Toolkit](#) highlighted that many girls and young women demonstrate leadership as implementers, providing clinical, psychological, and support services in their own capacity, and some have managerial roles. Our leadership drives projects working for and with the community. This ranges from direct services – such as condom distribution, supplying HIV prevention methods, assisting our peers in navigating health services, and offering counselling – to organizing local talks, lectures, and coordinating outreach. This statement resonates with the leadership of HER Voice Fund Ambassadors across 13 countries, championing interventions, advocacy and service provision in their capacity.



BASELINE SURVEY ASSESSMENT

A baseline survey assessment was distributed amongst the 13 Ambassadors to capture the most pressing training needs as well as what they learned in the last implementation period. An analysis was done with the **Analysis report** indicating a need for 7 key training areas namely:

1. Presentation Skills
2. Communication
3. Time Management Skills
4. Social Media / Content Creation / Branding
5. Creative Writing and Thinking
6. How to run an NGO (and apply for big funding opportunities); and
7. Innovations to ensure continuous support to the AGYW in times of Covid-19.

The planned sessions were implemented over a course of four months, with 80% average attendance from Ambassadors. Ambassadors appreciated the interactive and engaging sessions, through the use of break-out into rooms and lead sessions.



COLLABORATION

In collaboration with other AGYW in all our diversity, Ambassadors demonstrated and used skills and knowledge gained in both their professional and personal lives. For instance, Martha Clara Nakato- an Ambassador for Uganda - testified through her reports on how the capacity building has empowered her to engage, facilitate and lead sessions such as

- UN Women's Partnerships for Change Forums in Ethiopia which aimed to engage & strengthen partnerships with cultural & traditional institutions in fighting violence against girls and young women.
- The 3rd African Girls Summit in Niger aimed at recalling to Action African Union members to respect and protect the future of girls and women to also strengthen their commitments to eliminating harmful practices that continue to exacerbate various vulnerabilities and gender inequalities on girls and women.
- Country Dialogues which aimed at reaffirming the voices of CSOs on the ESA commitments. Frontline AIDS developed a blog, '[Taking a Stand for Sexual Health and Our Future](#),' outlining critical priorities for AGYW and lobbying for the renewal of ESA commitments.



CAPACITY BUILDING

Through this capacity building, HER Voice Fund Ambassadors became empowered to own their voice and speak truth to power at different key decision-making platforms, amplifying key issues that AGYW in all our diversity face. Some of these platforms include the Country Coordination Mechanism (CCM) where 13 Ambassadors have managed to engage- giving presentations, inputting in concept notes, leading AGYW consultants on C19 Response mechanisms, amongst others.

Ambassadors have taken advocacy to a whole new level where they pushed AGYW issues at technical working groups, policy reviews meetings, civil society meetings and other meetings related to HIV, SRHR and SGBV. HER Voice Fund Ambassadors used digital technology - through the use of social media- to take advocacy to a whole new world and level. In total, Ambassadors reached over 25 000 audiences across twitter, Facebook and Instagram. "If they cannot open their boardroom, we will meet them at twitter", Lucy Wanjiku- HER Voice Fund Ambassador Angel.

Capacity building is often bottle-necked in brief sessions only, but HER Voice Fund has supported us in implementation and application of the skills, knowledge and confidence gained and continuously driving advocacy from local to national level.

(Millicent, Ambassador for Botswana)



Marcia, Ambassador for Mozambique – also highlighted the importance of the essential capacity-building program. During the 2020 Ambassador capacity-building program, she was empowered by all the sessions, especially personal branding and communication. She alluded to having challenges with English language but this too improved through capacity building. With support from HER Voice Fund, Marcia went further and submitted 2 abstracts to ICASA 2021 that were accepted as Oral Poster sessions. Marcia’s personal growth as a result of capacity building continues to amaze; she went to CCM offices numerous times, amplifying HER Voice Fund and the need for connection to the CCM and other TWGs. She received a positive outcome where one of the CCM vice presidents agreed to have a meeting with her, the Country lead, and HER Voice Fund Coordinator. Marcia went on to develop and submit an abstract for AIDS 2022 conference with the title: **Using Research Approach to increase Access to Contraception Services by Adolescents Girls and Young Women in Marracuene District – Maputo Province**. She has also applied for a scholarship to attend the same conference. Marcia is also co-leading the development of the AGYW Capacity Strengthening curricula in collaboration with PATA, with support from Global Fund. Marcia presents an ideal AGYW leader and is an excellent example of what AGYW are capable of achieving if they are given appropriate opportunities and support.

In concluding this section, In Namibia, Ndiilo’s gains position her as one of the outstanding young leaders of our times. Through the support and capacity building from HER Voice Fund, Ndiilo managed to write a book called **The Chronicles of a Non-Binary Black Lesbian Namibian...in love**.

With High-Level Stakeholder Recognition, the book was launched on the 20th of August 2021. The book has been recognised as the first youth Queer Memoir in Namibia. In her own reflections, “Since I joined the HER Voice Fund in 2020 July, the launch of my book felt like a full-circle moment for me, especially as an Ambassador. Because now, not only am I an Ambassador, I am also an Author, and these titles bear significance insofar as public fora engagements go.”

Ndiilo has successfully applied for a new job (Positive Vibes Trust), and continuing her role as an Ambassador as Positive Vibes is a sub-grant recipient of Global Fund through the Ministry of Health and Social Services. This means the Ambassador position is integral, crucial, and validated. Please refer to the book launch events **Ndiilo Advocacy Brief achievements**.

5.2 Key achievements on Ambassador’s Journey over time, that is, tracking and following Ambassador Journey and being able to tell their stories better and changes because of HER Voice fund contributions and/or attributes

The story of a leader is one of an evolving nature where there is a clear picture of milestones, contributions, and key achievements. HER Voice Fund Ambassadors’ journey began in 2018 when they joined as Ambassadors. An example of an Ambassador’s personal journey with HER Voice Fund is illustrated below.

Martha, Ambassador for Uganda



SRHR/HIV young professional – ambassador for Uganda

Martha Clara Nakato joined HER Voice Fund in 2018 when the first pilot phase was launched. The knowledge and skills gained from the experience of serving as an ambassador greatly contributed to her professional growth, from being a Peer Educator to an efficient programmer in HIV/SRHR and also member of various national and regional technical HIV/SRHR working groups. She currently coordinates the We Lead program in Uganda.

1 Early stages

- Community Peer Educator and PLHIV Peer Support.
- Secretary General of the Youth Advisory Committee 2018/19 for the Get Up Speak Out program.
- Speaker at various conferences (ICASA 2019, UNAIDS HLMs, ICPD 2019 etc.).
- Recruited as the Policy and Advocacy officer at UNYPA (2019/21).
- Faces of the Global Fight (6th Global Fund's Replenishments).

2 HER Voice Fund Attributes

- Monthly data and travel honorariums.
- Ambassador capacity building and mentorship sessions (Webinars/Angels Program, Exchange learnings).
- Linkage to Participation in various Trainings and Online courses, i/e; Training of Trainers on global Fund processes, MYP, UHC, PSEA etc.).
- Support to participate in international conferences (ICASA 2019/20, HR4P Conference, ICPD19 etc.)
- Engagements in Policy and Advocacy developments; We've got the power report – UNAIDS.

3 How it is going

- Currently the National Coordinator for the We Lead program in Uganda.
- Global Fund CCM Youth Representative and Co-opted member of the Finance and Procurement Committee.
- Received an Award as the 1st upcoming Philly Lutaaya Personality of the year 2021.
- Engagement in National Resource Mobilization i.e; Global Fund Country proposal and PEPFAR COP20.
- Part of Technical working groups on key National/Regional Policy processes on HIV/SRHR i.e; EAC SRH [Bill](#), ESA CSE/SRHR Commitments, Generation Equality forums etc.
- Still championing Mental and well-being of AGYWs and YPLHIVs.

Evelyn's Journey



I now want to start my own organisation because of the push I received through these trainings.

(Evelyn)



Evelyn (pseudo), 25 years of age, joined HER Voice Fund in 2018. HER journey has been filled with pain and a sense of worthlessness. When she joined HER Voice Fund, she initially felt disconnected from other Ambassadors due to a lack of experience, exposure, and the opportunity to be in international spaces. PMU tried to engage this AGYW leader but had a lot of challenges, including

1. poor communication with PMU,
2. Not attending some of the scheduled calls
3. lacked report writing and invoice preparations skills
4. not meeting deadlines
5. and was very reserved in terms of participation in a group and not willing to be a panellist for any key event

PMU conducted several calls with Evelyn in person together with the Country Lead to find out what were the key challenges Evelyn was facing. She opened up to us by highlighting that as a survivor of abuse, she had anger issues and resentment hence not able to connect well and conduct the duties of being an Ambassador.

PMU provided Evelyn with access to psycho-social support through a professional psychologist, and witnessed significant improvements, including meeting deadlines, improved written reports, and submitting invoices well in time. Her mental well-being has improved significantly, and she has higher self-esteem, supported by the report from the psychologist.

In her own words:

Personally I have anger issues, and I was still blaming my past as an excuse not to do better, but I have really improved. Professionally I never met deadlines and wanted to be pushed to submit the requested information. Even though I want to be an activist, I never really cared, but of late, I am reaching deadlines and I love what I do, thanks to Her Voice Fund.

(Evelyn)



Our experience supporting Ambassadors on their individual journeys has resulted in a number of key lessons learned:

- Before being Ambassadors, they are AGYW, and as such, they have the same vulnerabilities and disparities that many AGYW face in relation to their health and rights.
- There may be occasions when HER Voice Fund PMU needs to engage with the caregivers of our ambassadors to work together to resolve issues-where possible and with the Ambassadors consent.
- One-on-one meetings with Ambassadors are very important to discuss personal issues, in addition to professional support. That way, unique and differentiated support can be drawn up for each Ambassador and often personal/professional issues are linked.
- Capacity Building is essential to build AGYW leaders who are empowered and confident to champion AGYW issues.

5.3 An AGYW-endorsed advocacy agenda, led by Ambassadors and supported through HER Voice Fund, has been used to inform Global Fund and other national-level decision-making bodies, processes, and events

COVID 19 variants continue to emerge, and more lockdowns and restrictions are enforced on the majority of our communities. Cases of gender-based violence and intimate partner violence continue to rise, access to sexual reproductive health services continues to face restrictions and there is further loss of income for girls, resulting in increased vulnerabilities. HER Voice Fund Ambassadors reside in these communities, they witness (and experience) these key issues as they emerge, and they take it upon themselves as leaders to not only support the AGYW with peer-counselling and referrals to other services but also take a step further to challenge the policies, structures, and systems as well as funding that speaks to the health and rights of AGYW in their diversity. Advocacy is at the core of Ambassadors' role and passion as they have also experienced these issues as AGYW. In the period under review, despite COVID 19, Ambassadors managed to champion an AGYW endorsed advocacy agenda to inform Global Fund and other national-level decision-making bodies, processes, and events.

With ever-increasing inequalities, intersectionality coupled with environmental crisis, conflicts, and climate change, AGYW continue to be the centre of a converging health crisis that threatens our health, safety, and well-being. Cynthia Wakuna, HER Voice Fund Ambassador for Cameroon, called for a collective effort from government entities, donors, implementers, policymakers, during the Commission on the Status of Women sixty seven (CSW67) to take a person-centred approach and not address AGYW as a homogeneous group. The side event was a high-level meeting graced by the outgoing chair of SADC, Honourable Minister **Dr. Patricia Annie Kaliati**, Minister of Gender, community development and social welfare, Malawi, **Kinuthia-Njenga**, UNFCCC, Director Intergovernmental Support, and Collective Progress **Her Excellency Mme. Memouna Baboni**, Chairperson, Specialised Technical Committee (STC) on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, African Union Commission,

Sirri Cynthia Wakuna Ngang, HER Voice Fund Ambassador, Cameroon amongst other prominent women. We are confident, bold, resilient, and hopeful that through advocacy efforts being led by Ambassadors like Cynthia, we are going to make the most significant impact.

In South Africa, Gracious launched an advocacy campaign called **#sexisnotforgirls**, a campaign about young adolescent girls and women advocating in a provocative and unconventional manner to take full control of their sexual experiences and ensure that their sexual health and reproductive rights are none negotiable. The campaign uses paradoxical messaging to get rid of the culture of surveillance and policing of women's bodies. The campaign, with support from the country lead, managed to host a consultative event with 70 AGYW in all their diversity, where we created a safe space for them to discuss freely and openly about their lived experiences with SRHR and how they can empower themselves.

The second achievement under this outcome was spending two weeks with 15 AGYW chosen to be part of the **#sexisnotforgirls** play at a centre where they did their rehearsals for the play in preparation for the World AIDS Day event.

Gracious own words:

I got the opportunity to further engage with them and to hear them tell their different stories using their lived experiences through acting, it was such a liberating experience to see them grow and some of them heal. They were all empowered, and their confidence grew over time. I also got the opportunity to work with a well-known scriptwriter and actress, Mogau Motlhatswi, and an actor Muzi Mthabela all from award-winning television shows in South Africa, and are making strides in the television industry alongside with well-experienced directors. I have learnt a lot from the AGYW and it boosted my confidence.



(Gracious)

The campaign is ongoing with more results to be shared in the next quarter reports and kindly follow the hashtag **#sexisnotforgirls** on social media.

5.4 Ambassadors have been supported to participate in relevant decision-making and consultative fora, including CCMs, NSPs, TWGs, and civil society meetings, through the development of speaking notes, advocacy briefs, presentations etc.

Ethical and meaningful engagement of AGYW is essential in program design, implementation, and oversight. AGYW need to be present and meaningfully participate and co-lead the interventions that matter to their health and rights. HER Voice Fund Ambassadors participated in 16 CCM meetings, 17 technical working groups, 25 civil society meetings, and 43 other meetings related to sexual reproductive health and rights, HIV, and gender-based violence. These AGYW champions managed to participate at international conferences where they pushed for crucial aspects related to our health and rights. For instance, Martha, HER Voice

Fund Ambassador for Uganda, in collaboration with other two youth representatives organised and hosted 3 CCM Youth Constituency engagement meetings; these were consultations meetings aimed at raising youth voices on key issues and how best the Global Fund can work for young people. They reached 213 youth including AGYW, and the consolidated key issues have been presented to CCM to inform programs being implemented through Global Fund.

Brenda in Kenya **organised a virtual capacity building with the AGYW of all grantees on Global Fund systems and processes with support from the country lead.** Y+ Kenya hosted this training, and it was facilitated by Joyce Ouma and Gloria Kerubo – representatives on the KCM (Kenya coordinating mechanism). Y+ Kenya mobilized a total of 20 AGYW, 2 AGYW KCM representatives, 6 Staff from the grantees and the HER Voice Fund Ambassador to benefit from capacity building on the Global fund and its processes, including identifying opportunities for better engagement of AGYW in the Global Fund Processes. Among the key opportunities identified by AGYW were:

- Look out for KCM AYP members opening opportunities and apply since the current ones are outgoing in December 2021 and encourage all AGYW to apply for this opportunity.
- Apply to join the GF Community Boards when opportunities arise.
- Join webinars and workshops on GF matters to make themselves knowledgeable on new opportunities.

We can also highlight Grace, Ambassador for Malawi, who has been championing crucial issues of AGYW in their diversity at CCM and PR engagements. In the period under review, as the HER Voice Ambassador and youth representative in the CCM, she had a meeting with the CCM-CSO vice chair, Mr. Maziko Matemba to discuss how best to engage AGYW and youth in the GF activities and how they can support us in advocating for total inclusion of AGYWs into GF principal recipient and sub-recipient activities as partners and not just beneficiaries. Grace also participated in the development of AGYW national standard operating procedures (SoPs) jointly organized by the National AIDS Commission, Malawi National Youth, and the AGYW secretariat. She pushed for youth-driven interventions to address challenges facing AGYW like gender-based Violence, social protection, and economic empowerment and keeping girls in safe schools, as well as reducing new HIV infections and preventing teenage pregnancies. Lastly, she was selected to be part of the Training of Trainers in Resilient Systems Strengthening for Health (RSSH) by the Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM). The result of the implementation of the TOT activity will be shared in the next report.

Collaborations and Movement Building with other Initiatives

UNICEF/HER Voice Fund Collaborations

HER Voice Fund has been working with UNICEF on several initiatives that are looking at AGYW issues, including UNICEF AGYW PrEP in Africa, where both the Coordinator and Nthabeleng, HER Voice Fund Ambassador for Lesotho, participated in the webinar on **Improving PrEP Implementation for Adolescent Girls and Young Women in ESA**. Nthabeleng gave a presentation on-demand HER Voice

Fund Narrative Close-out Report 2022 30 creation and community engagement, promoting AGYW access to PrEP. HER Voice Fund Coordinator also facilitated the WHO/UNICEF ICASA Satellite session titled *Support across the generations: Scaling up multisectoral programming for adolescent and young mothers living with HIV*. Co-convened by WHO and UNICEF, this satellite session called for action among policymakers, programmers, and young people to uphold the rights of this population and ensure that their children survive and thrive. A technical brief will be launched that summarizes what we know, and provide examples of successful service delivery models along with key considerations for implementation and priority actions.

University of Cape Town

HER Voice Fund engaged with the University of Cape Town (UCT) on linking and learning lenses under the Global Fund AGYW Strategic Initiative (AGYW-SI). As part of this, UCT has been contracted as the service provider for component 1 of the AGYW-SI, which focuses on reviewing and revising the national AGYW strategies for Cameroon, Eswatini, Kenya, Lesotho, and Mozambique. The focus is on engaging Ambassadors from the former during this process to get their perspectives and broader AGYW in their diversity. The engagement is ongoing with a recent meeting in January 2022 that looked at the in-country mapping of the key drivers of HIV amongst AGYW and interventions responding to these issues, where Ambassadors shared insights based on their country's context. UCT has a wide range of resources and materials, and in the 2022 implementation period, we will explore how these materials can strengthen the advocacy agenda at the country level.

In summary, HER Voice Fund, in April 2022, will explore more plans where Ambassadors have an opportunity to collaborate and engage, representing AGYW in their diversity. Moreover, collaborations with other initiatives are happening in-country, involving not only Ambassadors but grantees as well. For example, ARRC in South Africa was awarded funding to expand and build on the work for HER Voice Fund, especially on COVID 19 Response programming. More strategic thinking needs to take place, aligning with HER Voice Fund as to

1. what stage/length do we go with linking and learning, as well as collaborations with other initiatives;
2. how we document it better to become one of HER Voice Fund's strengths; and
3. how we define impact/key milestones.

5.5 Development of Ambassador Angels mentorship program to support and mentor Ambassadors by experienced African Young Women Leaders

HER Voice Fund developed a mentorship program known as Ambassador Angels Program. The program extends and deepens the mentorship and support provided to Ambassadors by linking them with mentors known as 'Ambassador Angels', building the Ambassadors' skills and experience as they undertake their roles. Mentorship is the process of supporting, informing, and empowering Ambassadors to be leaders, and advancing advocacy to achieve policy change on issues that matter to AGYW.

The Angels are prominent women leaders who are experienced in advocacy and well vested in key decision-making processes such as Country Coordinating Mechanisms (CCMs). The Young Women leaders are also based in the Africa region where they have the experience of HIV response, and this is the context in which Ambassadors are leading their roles under HER Voice Fund. Each Angel is mentoring two or three Ambassadors, with a total of six Angels on board. The Angels-Ambassadors program paired Ambassadors with Angels who had more experience in areas the Ambassadors wanted to develop. PMU developed the Ambassador Angel Curriculum, which guided and structured mentorship for AGYW. The mentoring consisted of three sessions per month, exploring progress to date and key challenges faced by the Ambassadors. They utilized their mentoring log sheet, which helped them to track the agreed action points and how they were met. WhatsApp was the most utilized platform, which was easily accessible and user-friendly between the Angel and Ambassadors. It is important to note that the mentoring journey was a co-sharing of experiences rather than a one-sided relationship. Angels had an opportunity to learn from Ambassadors themselves, for instance, Lucy Wanjiku-Angel for Ndiilo shared how she learned activism in the LGBTQI context and how Ndiilo is driving this component in Namibia.

Significant progress has been made over the past eight months in implementing the Ambassador Angel program towards the goals and objectives to be achieved by end of March 2022. There was a need to balance between Ambassador roles and time allocated to this program where some months like December were hectic for Ambassadors with ICASA 2021 engagements. The Ambassadors mentioned that the consistency of the mentorship meetings-three sessions per month - ensured they were accountable to the goals they set out to achieve as well as the smart analysis of their goal settings. The other thing was ease of communication between the mentor and mentees and the nurturing of their strengths. To assist in establishing and developing this mentoring program, PMU adapted additional tools from *Step Up, Link Up, Speak Up: Mentoring Toolkit* (Frontline AIDS, 2016), which focused on

1. Steps in building a mentoring relationship
2. Starting from our strengths
3. Setting up a mentoring relationship
4. Developing a mentorship plan and
5. Carrying it forward: 10 top tips for mentoring in action.

The Mentoring Log enables Ambassadors to keep a clear record of all mentoring meetings with their Angel, including the main topics covered and any actions agreed. This enabled both to track progress over time, maintain accountability for agreed actions, and ensure that each Ambassador's needs and priorities were met during the programme. Ambassador Angels managed to submit quarterly reports sharing progress to date with all their respective mentees.

The goals developed and set were tailor-made to each Ambassador's needs for growth, both personally and professionally, and included a focus on leadership skills; policy development; resource mobilisation; and career guidance. Some goals even included working on personal character and attitude, for instance, Martha in Uganda wanted to work on a professional goal of becoming a resilient, flexible, and objective

leader in her profession by 2022 through appreciating experiences, adapting, and learning from every challenge. The Ambassador Angels program proved to be essential as it goes beyond the capacity building to include self-reflection and what you are expected to deliver.

Prior to the Ambassador Angels program, PMU was experiencing a number of challenges with current Ambassadors, including

1. not communicating well in time
2. missing deadlines
3. not fulfilling their roles and responsibilities.

The Ambassador Angels program has reminded the Ambassadors why they are leaders and what they are passionate about, in addition to encouraging personal responsibility and accountability. Ambassadors demonstrated clear improvements, including submitting their quarterly reports well on time, participating in the Capacity Building program without any excuses, and being responsive to communication. Individual meetings between Angels and Ambassadors provide an opportunity to build a close relationship over time that supports the mentoring component – Ambassadors trust and value the input from Angels. This clearly shows the impact of the Ambassador Angels mentorship program and the reason why it should be led by external young women with relevant experience.

In concluding this section, Angel's program is a much-needed project, ambassadors are passionate and dedicated but need more support to build valuable skills that will push them on to the next level. The Angel's Program will continue in 2022, focusing on the key recommendations and other aspects that can be incorporated within the program.

As Someone who has walked their path before is critical in shaping the ambassadors' learning experiences in this space. As a mentor, I enjoyed working with the ambassadors, especially the ones who were proactive and energetic.

(Sibulele Sibaca-Executive Director for Impact Drivers, South Africa).



Being a previous mentor of one of the Ambassadors way before it had structure, it has been exciting to be part of this journey with the structures in place. There were well laid out plans of what the mentees expected of me and what I expected of them. This was based on the initial one on one calls. With this in place, it was easy to understand who they are, what they want, why they want it, and my role in supporting them achieve their intended purpose. Through this way of working, the last six months have been interesting where I have seen the mentees push themselves and become better advocates and Ambassadors. They see themselves in the broader picture of health and determine their role and what is needed to get there.

(Lucy Wanjiku, Executive Director for Positive Young Women Voices (PYWV), Kenya)



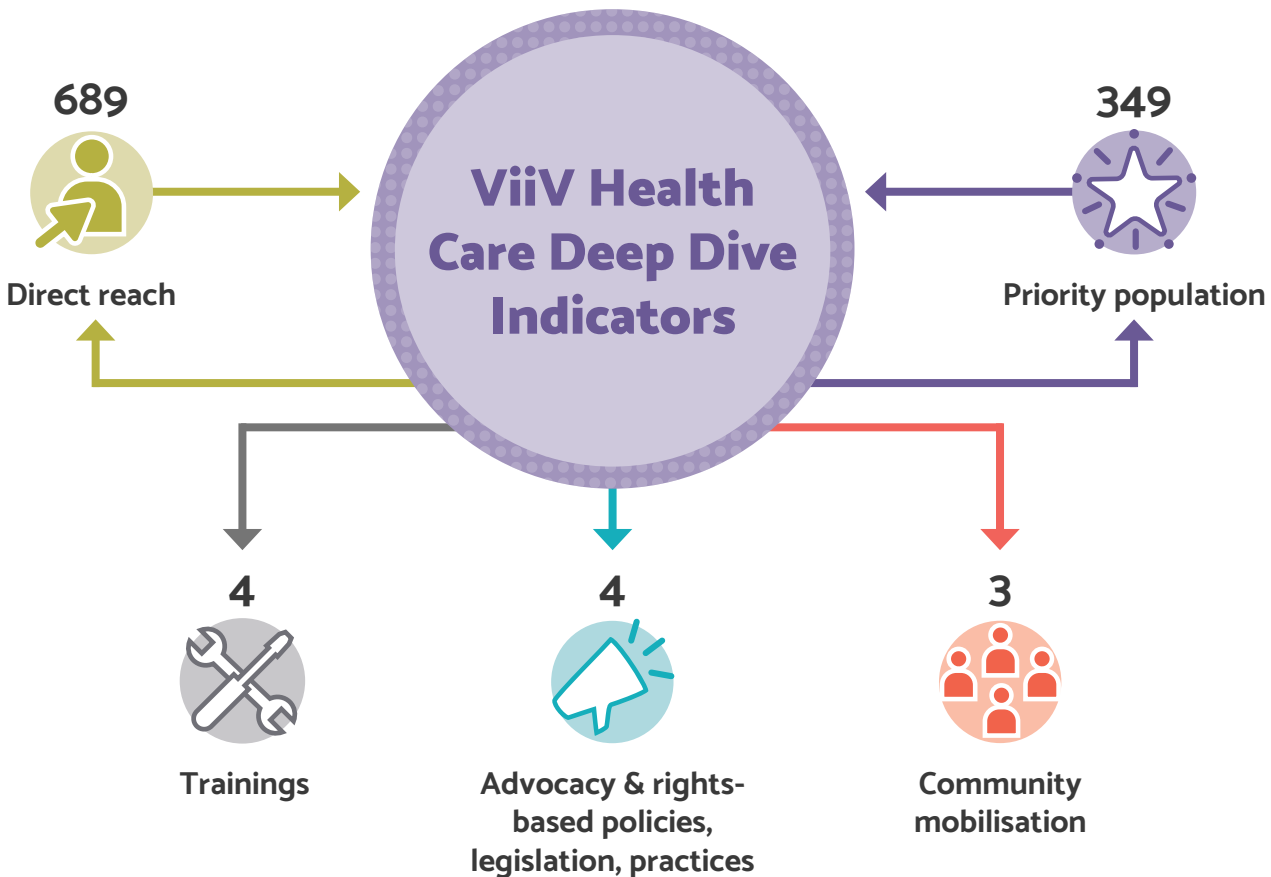
As someone who was once an ambassador since 2018, PMU brought a whole new perspective and strategy to how a mentorship program can be implemented in a beneficial way and not undermine the power of Ambassadors. Mentorship is about being open-minded and learning from each other, sharing the power, and mutually making decisions together. This program was well structured with tools to use and reporting mechanisms that were clear for both mentee and program. I am looking forward to what it will become in 2022.



(Brenda, Medical Doctor and previous HER Voice Fund Ambassador, Cameroon)

6 Progress on the Deep Dive Program

Fig 8. ViiV Health Care Deep Dive Indicators



Progress made on the proposed outcomes for Deep Dive

The Deep Dive program started in August 2021, with the aim of understanding the challenges, gaps as well as opportunities within programming, policy, and health service delivery for AGYW. The program is being implemented in two different country contexts: Kenya - where AGYW engagement, capacity, and commitment are strong- and Mozambique - where AGYW engagement needs to be strengthened and supported. HER Voice Fund will identify and share lessons from this project with 13 participating countries and AGYW leaders.

6.1 Creating opportunities for a well-structured and collaborative engagement in advocacy at different levels and platforms.

Advocacy can happen in many forms and modalities, and to achieve greater impact, there is a need for a collective effort from implementers, donors, government entities, and affected communities. Deep Dive provided an opportunity to promote equity, including diversity and inclusion; ownership, and sustainability amongst other aspects. Deep Dive looked at AGYW key issues, including ensuring understanding of local country contexts, taking an intersectional approach, and supporting work incubated and led by AGYW on the engagement of policymakers.

In **Kenya**, Y+ Kenya developed a [Terms of Reference for the Tausi Taskforce](#) that highlighted the key requirements and expected outcomes for an AGYW platform focusing on improving SRHR, and put out the call for the AGYW Taskforce to apply: The call for applications targeted different populations within the AGYW demographic to ensure it was an inclusive taskforce. The Tausi Taskforce is composed of AGYW living with HIV, young mothers, those who identify as Lesbians, Bisexual, Transgender, or Intersex, Young Sex Workers, Young women living in the Informal Settlements, and Young women in the SRHR Field. Y+ Kenya received responses from over 318 Young people, including two young men and 316 AGYW. Y+ Kenya conducted interviews with the 316 AGYW applicants and selected a task force made of 10 AGYW and HER Voice Fund Ambassadors. Y+ Global later introduced the [task force members](#) on Facebook. Y+ Kenya reached out to stakeholders through an invitation letter to support and have first-hand engagement with the Tausi taskforce. The targeted stakeholders were from County Government, Kenya Coordinating Mechanism for the Global Fund, National Aids and STI Control Programme (NASCOP), National Aids Control Council (NACC), and UNAIDS. Each organisation nominated one representative to be part of the AGYW taskforce, bringing a total of 15 members.

Y+ Kenya officially held the first high level panel at the national level during the official Tausi Taskforce dinner launch on the 26th of February 2022. The Launch focused on the theme “Tackling national and community challenges of adolescent girls and young women SRHR through an AGYW centred design”. TAUSI Taskforce was identified as the new, inspiring, innovative, and far-reaching AGYW platform aiming to improve the SRHR of adolescent and young women in Kenya at county and national level and key experts recognised the work of Y+ Kenya on promoting the meaningful engagement of AGYW and expressed their support for the Taskforce.

I commit to be available for the Tausi Taskforce to support their thinking and shaping of their leadership and governance structure.

(Nelson Otwoma (CEO NEPHAK))

We commit to linking up with organizations working with AGYW to close the existing gaps once there are clear structures and an all-inclusive representation of young people.

(Vickie Koske (NASCOP Adolescent and young people specialist))



In Mozambique, REPSSI established an AGYW taskforce in December 2021. This was a great achievement as previously the absence of such a structure to lead the advocacy process posed a huge gap that constrained AGYW to participate meaningfully in decision-making processes and restricted their access to overall health services. Further to the creation of the task force, the members received advocacy training facilitated by an experienced young person, from the local Y+ association, locally known as PAAJ. This training helped the members to understand better what is expected of them in terms of advocacy. AGYW involved in the task force launched the Advocacy Campaign on the 10th of January 2022 with support from REPSSI. In addition, they identified some of their capacity building needs, such as communication, social accountability, and fundraising

The creation of a taskforce in each country allowed for well-coordinated and structured efforts, beginning with a desk-based review to inform their advocacy efforts: In Mozambique, REPSSI conducted the desk review with support from a consultant. Key issues identified during the desk-based review included

1. Poor communication between parents and AGYW on issues related to sex and sexuality;
2. GBV and child marriages that still affect a lot of adolescent AGYW;
3. Poor dissemination of SRHR information and health services leading to poor access;
4. Poor AGYW involvement in decision-making processes at several levels.

After conducting a desk review, [REPSSI](#) collaborated with the task force leadership to organize various advocacy activities. Y+ Kenya, in partnership with a consultant, identified crucial policies, guidelines, and frameworks aimed at promoting the meaningful engagement of adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) and supported the Tausi Task Force's advocacy efforts. The taskforce in both countries went further to develop advocacy plans, informed by the key gaps identified in the desk review. In Mozambique, this included the lack of AGYW engagement and participation at key decision platforms. In response, REPSSI launched an Advocacy campaign for which the main theme was **“we want greater engagement in decision-making processes about our future”**. This event, policymakers were invited to attend the event (representative of the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and Human Development, Secretary of State of Youth and Employment and Global Fund, the task force members, and the local journalists). AGYW taskforce managed to present their key concerns relating to their absence from key decision-making platforms including the CCM itself. They highlighted that aspects relating to their health and rights continue to be ignored, especially in the recent launched C19 RM where AGYW are not benefitting at all from programs/services. The CCM responded by highlighting that there will be different mechanisms and/or activities that will enable AGYW to participate in this process. They acknowledged that AGYW agenda is lagging behind in their implementation and at the planning level. Having the taskforce structure in place will make it easy for the CCM to approach them and consult whenever there is a process or event taking place.

6.2 Implementation and monitoring of the social accountability framework on the AGYW interventions in the country

HER Voice Fund can demonstrate significant innovation and leadership by advocating for the greater involvement of AGYW in monitoring and accountability, grant-making, and governance. Deep Dive provided such opportunity to explore how AGYW can lead the accountability work, especially on crucial aspects pertaining to their health and rights. The process started by adapting a successful Social Accountability framework spearheaded by an organisation in Zimbabwe called Youth Engage. Y+ Kenya put out a Terms of Reference for a consultant to develop a social Accountability Toolkit with tracking tools in October 2021. Y+ Kenya then organized a meeting with 9 Tausi Taskforce members and identified the indicators that they would like to see in the Scorecard for the AGYW as well as stakeholders. The consultant then developed a comprehensive paper-based and Online Tool known as ODK scorecard to enable real-time data and feedback from the AGYW. The Scorecard is broken down into Topics and Subtopics with indicators for each. The scorecard has three parts i) basic knowledge of the scorecard for the filler ii) HIV, SRHR Related services, Programming, and care iii) Meaningful Youth Engagement. The scorecard will be utilised by taskforce in monitoring and accountability work towards AGYW programming and funding.

In preparation for the launch of the scorecard, the Taskforce mobilized AGYW from their communities to complete the scorecard to enable us to understand the status of AGYW programming, and Mental Health coverage in the communities. Notably, it was obvious that AGYWLHIV have had challenges accessing some of their Viral Load ART and SRHR commodities, largely because of commodity stockouts in the country. AGYW who are differently-abled do not have access, or are rather not prioritized, when developing their SRHR commodities and as such it becomes challenging to use the products. Overall, AGYW noted an increased sense of ownership in progressive policies over the last year. However, there is a need to note that the timeframe given to accountability work was short as it requires numerous follow-up, recording and verifying facts with different stakeholders. **A recommendation is to have this program continue to run for the year 2022, in order to record the concrete impact from this potential work on social accountability. Mozambique only managed to adapt the social accountability framework and has not managed to roll out the actual work at community level, hence the need for the continuation of this project.**

6.3 AGYW have a strong understanding of key advocacy platforms, are able to identify opportunities for influencing, can recognise and track investments for AGYW in their country, are able to engage in CCMs, and participate in platforms internationally where they are able to voice the needs of AGYW.

Brenda Baks- HER Voice Fund Ambassador in Kenya - organised a virtual capacity building with TAUSI taskforce on Global Fund and its Processes with support from the country lead. The workshop was facilitated by two representatives of the KCM (Kenya coordinating mechanism). The training focused on Global Fund processes,

including identifying opportunities for better engagement of AGYW in these processes. Among the key opportunities identified by AGYW were:

- Look out for KCM AYP members opening opportunities and apply since the current ones are outgoing in December 2021 and encourage all AGYW to apply for this opportunity.
- Apply to join the GF Community Boards when opportunities arise.
- Join webinars and workshops on GF matters to make themselves knowledgeable on new opportunities.

The taskforces in Kenya and Mozambique went further to participate during the PEPFAR introduction and consultative process during Country Operational Plan (COP), representing AGYW in our diversity. The AGYW shared their priorities and interventions that they would like to see prioritized by the PEPFAR team in their next implementation plan. On the 10th February 2022, REPSSI launched an Advocacy campaign for which the main theme was **“we want greater engagement in decision-making processes about our future”**, in this event the main public sectors were invited to attend the event (representative of the ministry of health, ministry of education and human development, secretary of state of youth and employment and Global Fund, the task force members and the local journalists.

Y+ Kenya launched a national campaign to create visibility of the Deep Dive Project being implemented by Y+ Kenya and engage in conversations on SRHR on television and radio as well as social media to highlight the challenges affecting AGYW. It is also to enable the viewer to interact with the TV show, other than just creating its awareness. Through the media training organised by Y+ Kenya with local media practitioners, Tausi Taskforce members were trained to engage in media advocacy by reporting in the right perspective, while respecting cultural norms, and being able to challenge those that are discriminatory through changing social norms and attitudes.

The local media supported AGYW to learn how to pitch and put their SRHR opinion / story ideas into perspective and ensure that the stories presented are well-informed and data-driven, thereby making them interesting and captivating to read. The Tausi Taskforce was able to engage in media advocacy on SRHR issues, increase HER Voice Fund visibility work being led by grantees in Kenya, and how communities and key stakeholders can engage and participate, influencing those who make decisions towards change.

The Tausi Taskforce Members were able to visit and engage on the following platforms;

Platform of engagement	Number of engagement per platform	Number of TAUSI Taskforce engaged
Radio	2	4
Television	5	6
Facebook, Twitter and TikTok	18	11
Blog posts	2	4
Podcast	4	8
Youtube	2	2

Working with key local media to provide space on AGYW related issues and interventions

REPSSI engaged local media to amplify the work being done by HER Voice Fund in Mozambique. One activity that was covered by the media included the creation of the AGYW task force. The event received good coverage with the presence of television (STV and TV success), Radio Mozambique, and written press, Canal de Mozambique. REPSSI and grantees activities broadcast on the importance of meaningful engagement of AGYW in all our diversity. More achievements and the advocacy work of the AGYW taskforce will be further amplified through securing further interviews.

In Kenya, Y+ Kenya has identified 4 different Young Journalists within the HIV and SRHR space who have already documented their work within local media, such as print media, digital media, and podcasts. To date, the Local Media representatives have had over 11 engagements with AGYW from the Taskforce ranging from Twitter spaces to Podcasts, FM station, Instagram Lives, and Blog posts. They also managed to amplify the work of HER Voice Fund grantees.

Y+ Kenya took it further by having members of the TAUSI taskforce trained to understand the types of media available in Kenya, how they work, reach, perceptions, and impact on the audience. Members of the task force were expected to capture the key principles and concepts of writing open-ended or opinion articles to the various available print media. The participants were taken through the Kenya media landscape, where the facilitator provided explanations of the available media types in the country, indicated the distribution and consumption of the different channels or outlets in approximate numbers and further provided an overview of the advantages and disadvantages of different media platforms. All the media types were covered during the session, including digital, print, and broadcast. In order to build their capacity on writing opinion articles, the participants were divided into four groups and requested to brainstorm on a topic on which they would want to write an opinion

piece regarding, and have it on the side so that they compare notes as they are being taken through how to do it. Participants were taken through the steps of writing an article extensively, especially because an opinion article is an art of arguing and making your point matter or influence the audience/reader.

The taskforce challenged themselves by writing opinion pieces and participating in the different digital spaces to share insights on AGYW issues, including HIV. They developed opinion articles on Condom Use, consent, and Contraceptive use from different perspectives. The AGYW also joined and organized twitter spaces, Facebook, Podcasts, Tik Tok Videos, and Youtube. There was a significant increase in the reach of blog posts, from 70 readers monthly to 183 readers monthly. For Social Media posts, there were an estimated 8000 engagements across all platforms used between January and February 2022. For detailed information and links to the articles written by the Taskforce please refer to Annex 1.

Lessons Learnt from Deep Dive

Deep dive has proven that if the interventions are well resourced, AGYW are able to lead the advocacy agenda, engaging key policymakers and implementers in changing their narrative related to health and rights. Y+ Kenya has developed a crucial [Deep Dive impact on AGYW](#), highlighting the achievements because of TAUSI taskforce leadership. Another lesson learnt that can be applied across 13 countries is to establish a taskforce with a good representation of AGYW in all our diversity and funded with the sole mandate of driving AGYW advocacy agenda at the country level. This lesson has been applied in Eswatini where Positive Women Together supported **the process of establishment of the AGYW Task Team, a lesson learnt from Deep Dive Kenya**.

Other key lessons learnt from Deep Dive include:

- The gaps identified during desk review align with the key Aspirations developed in the country profiles. For example, **Kenya country profile aspiration 3: increase adolescent and young women's participation in national HIV and SRH programming and policy implementation processes** resonates with the recommendations from the desk review analysis report: *Ensuring that national policy frameworks reflect the importance of meaningful engagement of AYP and AYPLHIV at all stages of research, as well as development, implementation and monitoring of health programs.*
- Deep dive as a cross-learning sharing experience space: Throughout the Deep Dive implementation, Kenya and Mozambique shared different learning and perspectives, which strengthened the progress in leadership and advocacy. This lesson can be applied in all the 13 countries where PMU will continue to provide those platforms for linking and learning purposes.
- Deep Dive needs more implementation time to measure its impact. The development of documents and tools such as the Country Mapping and Social Accountability Framework take a long period of time to get inputs from the consultant, the taskforce, the PMU from both Y+ Kenya and Y+ Global. As such, we would kindly request the extension of the Deep Dive activities for an additional 12 months so as to better monitor the impact.
- Collaborations and collective effort in building a AGYW movement, for instance, key players such as NAC, CCM, UN Agencies, ensure continuity and creation of a safe space where AGYW can interact with policymakers and contribute to collective advocacy outcomes.

- Resources adequately allocated can yield results and strengthen local media engagement, amplifying the marvellous work being led by grantees across 13 countries.
- Social Accountability Framework and tools can be easily adapted and tailored according to each country's context.



CASE STUDY

Linkage between HER Voice Fund and Deep Dive

Margaret Sweene was one of the 50 AGYW trained in 2020 by CHILD SPACE ORGANIZATION supported programs with a focus on leadership and advocacy skills. Y+ Kenya through Deep Dive project launched a call for applications for a TAUSI Taskforce—who were going to lead advocacy to address the gaps in AGYW programming and funding. She applied for the role and was successful in her interviews as one of the members for the TAUSI Taskforce under Deep Dive. It was noted that Margaret was the youngest (15 years old) of all the participants yet was one of the best, most confident and empowered AGYW, despite coming from the informal settlements of Kenya. She did not receive all other opportunities that other AGYW in urban areas benefit from, such as exposure to social media and internet but just one training and mentorship as a result of Her Voice Fund support. She defied the odds and assumptions about AGYW in rural areas, proving that they should not be left behind as they have the voice and can do extraordinary things in championing the key issues that AGYW face. She initially had no idea about how to write articles or even a speech but now she is a well-known young speaker who is very resilient, confident and well-empowered. Kindly refer to [Day of African Child_Margerat Video](#).

Beyond Deep Dive, HER Voice Fund PMU will employ and share key lesson learnt across 13 African countries. There is a need to put more thought into

- The continuity of the taskforce created and the impact it yielded as a result of being well funded, which enabled meaningful participation of AGYW in our diversity. The critical question will be how these taskforces can continue to keep the momentum and movement building around critical AGYW needs, after the close-out of the Deep Dive program?
- There is a need to explore more into Community-Led Monitoring versus Social Accountability terminology. Both Global Fund new strategy and UNAIDS strategy have shaped their interventions around CLM, and the need for HER voice Fund to align we especially in 2022 implementation period but drawing lessons from the Deep Dive social accountability work.
- Advocacy versus policymakers willfulness/availability of funds. For example, Desk Review findings indicated that there are several policies that need to be reviewed to be inclusive and transformative to the needs of AGYW. The question that needs thoughts into is how does HER Voice Fund takes a step further to support the revisions process for example? Going beyond advocacy but rather initiating the change that is needed. There is a need for closer watch in terms of our approach , not to be the problem identifiers only but to be part of the solution that is beyond advocacy.

ANNEX I

Additional resources and links*

- <https://evasawakeningcom.wordpress.com/2021/11/22/tausi-taskforce->
- <https://youtu.be/8pwWiz8jJfY>
- <https://www.facebook.com/100002759538965/videos/276566841254063/>
- <https://www.instagram.com/p/CaCTXIxlvyz/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HRAW-2IG7NA&t=60s>
- <https://www.instagram.com/p/CaPKu7bIMTN/>
- https://twitter.com/D_Moraa/status/1496203106253746178?s=20&t=XZTxajBoMSJgymo5g0OHkg
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eOti-q4lYb4&t=444s>
- <https://www.facebook.com/100002759538965/videos/366838965031562/>
- <https://anchor.fm/ruele-okeyo/episodes/Adolescent-Girls-and-Young-Women-EP-8-e1aiqk0>
- <https://anchor.fm/ruele-okeyo/episodes/Gender-Based-Violence-EP-10-e1b8vo5>

*Links and references to posts may have been removed from the report as they are no longer active or correct.

