



## **Government of Uganda and Partners Launch SAY Plus+ to Scale Youth Sexual Reproductive Health & Rights (SRHR) Impact in Underserved Regions**

USD 50 million national programme moves into full implementation, strengthening adolescent and youth rights, empowerment, protection and access to youth-responsive services in 13 districts across five sub-regions

**KAMPALA, 7 MAY 2026:** The Government of Uganda, through the Ministry of Health, today officially launched the SAY Plus+ Programme, a Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) initiative designed to strengthen adolescent and youth rights, empowerment, protection and access to quality services in Uganda's underserved regions.

The launch, held at Makerere University's Freedom Square under the theme "*My Voice Matters: Youth Voices for SAY Plus+*" and the tagline "*Nothing for us, without us*", marks the programme's transition into full implementation.

SAY Plus+, formerly known as Strengthening Adolescents and Youth Rights and Empowerment: Scaling Impact, is led by the Ministry of Health, in coordination with other Ministries, with UNFPA Uganda serving as the Managing and Technical Agency.

Backed by a USD 50 million pooled fund from the Governments of Iceland, Denmark, the Netherlands, and Sweden, the initiative is scheduled to operate between 2024 and 2030. It is currently being rolled out across thirteen districts within five sub-regions, providing targeted assistance to regional referral hospitals in Jinja, Mbale, Moroto, Yumbe, Arua, and Gulu. Furthermore, the programme supports the Human Capital Development goals established in Uganda's National Development Plan IV.

"SAY Plus+ represents a shift from fragmented interventions to a coordinated national effort that meaningfully places young people at the centre of both design and delivery. Through our partnership with the Government of Uganda, development partners, and implementing partners, we are investing not only in services, but in the systems, communities, and environments that enable adolescents and young people to thrive not only today but also in the future," said Ms. Kristine Blokhus, Representative - UNFPA Uganda.

Officially launched by the Minister of State for Health Hon. Margaret Muhanga, the SAY Plus+ programme targets adolescents and young people aged 10 to 24 years, with particular focus on adolescent girls and young women, refugees and host-community youth, out-of-school young people, those not in employment, education or training, adolescents with disabilities, and young people in humanitarian and post-conflict settings.

“For many of us, things like this one are designed without listening to what we go through every day, think or even feel. SAY Plus+ feels different because it starts with our voices and gives us a real role in shaping solutions. It is not just about information, it is about being supported to make decisions, access services, and build the future we want.” - Jovia Dranzoa, Young person.

SAY Plus+ operates through three pillars. First, it empowers youth to exercise their rights and make informed choices. Second, it engages families, communities, and leaders to address harmful social norms. Third, it strengthens youth-responsive SRHR, HIV, and gender-based violence services via health facilities and community platforms, aiming to reach over 2.3 million direct and indirect beneficiaries.

The SAY Plus+ initiative stands as a model of international cooperation and multi-sectoral synergy. Through the combined support of the Governments of Iceland, Denmark, the Netherlands, and Sweden, and the technical leadership of UNFPA, Uganda is now equipped to scale-up critical interventions in HIV prevention, gender-based violence response, and reproductive health. With implementation now in high gear through **2030**, the programme is poised to make a lasting contribution to the nation’s human capital development goals.

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## Notes to Editors

**About SAY Plus+:** SAY Plus+ stands for Strengthening Adolescents and Youth Rights and Empowerment: Scaling Impact. It is a Government of Uganda-led national SRHR programme, implemented with UNFPA Uganda as the Managing and Technical Agency.

<b>Programme period</b>	2024 to 2030
<b>Total budget</b>	USD 59 million (pooled fund)
<b>Lead institution</b>	Ministry of Health, Government of Uganda
<b>Managing and Technical Agency</b>	UNFPA Uganda
<b>Development partners</b>	Denmark, Sweden, Iceland, and the Netherlands
<b>Target Population</b>	Adolescents and young people aged 10 to 24, especially those in underserved and vulnerable contexts
<b>Programme focus</b>	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR)
<b>Geographic coverage</b>	Five sub-regions and thirteen districts in Acholi, West Nile, Karamoja, Bukedi and Busoga, with strategic support to regional referral hospitals
<b>Launch theme</b>	My Voice Matters: Youth Voices for SAY Plus+
<b>Hashtags</b>	#MyVoiceMatters #SAYPlusUg

**Strategic government partners:** Ministry of Health; Ministry of Education and Sports; Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development; Uganda Bureau of Statistics; National Planning Authority; and Ministry of Local Government.

**Implementing partners:** CARE International in Uganda, Marie Stopes Uganda, Naguru Teenage Information and Health Centre, AMREF Health Africa, CUAMM and Straight Talk Foundation.

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