



# NAKASEETA INITIATIVE FOR ADULT EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT [NIFAED]

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## NIFAED 2022 ANNUAL REPORT



***AGYW of Nakivubo undergoing SINOVUYO sessions on 26<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022***

**SUBMITTED BY:**

**NIFAED**

**TO**

**NIFAED BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

**Date: 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2022**

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***Probation Office-Mityana District***

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## **ACRONYMS & ABBREVIATIONS**

AGYW	Adolescent Girls and Young Women
AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
ART	Antiretroviral Therapy
HTS	HIV Testing Services
CBOs	Community Based Organizations
CDO	Community Development Officer
DREAMS	Determined, Resilient, Empowered, AIDS-free, Mentored, Safe
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
VAC	Violence against Children
MOH	Ministry of Health
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IPs	Implementing Partners
MUG	Mildmay Uganda
NDF	Nnabagereka Development Foundation
PVC	Post Violence Care
NIFAED	Nakaseeta Initiative for Adult Education and Development
VSLA	Village Saving and Loans Association
SEL	Social Emotional Learning
GEF	Girls Empowerment Forum
FL	Financial Literacy
VHTs	Village Health Teams
DQA	Data Quality Assessment
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
BCC	Behavior Change and Communication
MCPR	Modern Contraceptive Prevalence Rate
PrEP	Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis
OVC	Orphans and Vulnerable Children
IGA	Income Generating Activities
STI	Sexual Transmission Infections
EMTCT	Elimination of Mother to Child Transmission
CDC	Centre for Disease Control
SQA	Service Quality Assessment
QMS	Quality Management Systems
SES	Social Economic Strengthening
ICYD	Integrated Children and Youth for Development
UCHL	Uganda Child Helpline
VMMC	Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision
GEF	Girls Engagement Forum
APN	Assisted Partner Notification
EAYL	Earn as You Learn

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Nakaseeta Initiative for Adult Education and Development Located in Nakaseeta in Mityana District in 2022 was given mandate to implement the DREAMS project in Mubende District a job which was diligently done. Since the organisation had her headquarters in Mityana District, Managerial and command centre was still maintained in Nakaseeta and all the decisions of the board and field plans were drafted from the organisation headquarters.

The DREAMS project was implemented in 2022 in Mubende district to reach the most vulnerable Adolescent Girls and Young Women - AGYW (9-24 years) with funding from CDC through Mildmay Uganda being supported by the other key stakeholders in the Local government such as the Health, Education, and community development departments. The project was implemented in the 10 sub-counties of Baggezza, Butoloogo, Kasambya, Kiyuni, Kibalinga, Kigando, Kitenga, Nabingoola, Madudu, and M.T.C to reduce the incidence of new HIV cases among Adolescent Girls and young women (AGYW) between the ages of 9 - 24 years. The NIFAED target for COP21 is 18,877 to be activated and served by September 2022.

Throughout the year 2022, the following achievements were registered; A total of 16251 AGYWs were activated (86%); 16156 AGYW were screened for HTS, and 4383 AGYW were tested for HIV, 16196 AGYW were screened for GBV and 4051 received PVC services (Psycho-social support, PREP and HTS, and 3 linked to police).

In Curriculum Based interventions, a cumulative 8782 AGYW were reached with Stepping stones where 8722 AGYW completed and 60 AGYW did not manage to complete all the sessions. Journeys plus was scaled up to 5968 AGYW who all completed the sessions to reduce sexual risk behaviors. In SINOVIUYO curriculum, 6471 AGYW (9-14yrs) completed all the 14 sessions as their primary package and 973 AGYW (15-17yrs) received it as their secondary service after assessment.

Economically, AGYW were empowered with; Financial literacy where 6184 Completed, 9993 AGYW (In-School) Completed Aflateen, 5338 Completed short Term Skills, 234

AGYW received a One Off, 123 AGYW attached to Earn as You Learn apprenticeship training and 5262 AGYW received start-up Kit to enable them continue practicing the skills acquired to promote earn a living.

AGYW were layered with secondary services based on individual risks identified during assessments where; cumulatively 5328 received education subsidy, 4065 received condoms, 246 received PREP, 1533 joined 46 VSLA groups that were formed.

Cumulatively, **583** Groups where **254** groups were for 9-14years old, **218** were for 15-19years and **111** were for 20-24 years. Through the groups formed services were delivered to the AGYW in the different age bands and attained 97% (15596) AGYW\_PREV by the end of the quarter where 91% (14692) attained PRIM\_SEC (Completed primary and received at least a secondary service) 6% (904) completed only a primary package.

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

Nakaseeta Initiative for Adult Education and Development (NIFAED) is an indigenous organization working to uplift the standards of vulnerable categories of people in Uganda. NIFAED currently works in Mityana, Mubende and Kassanda Districts. NIFAED Head Offices are located in Nakaseeta trading Centre in Mityana District.

During the year 2022, NIFAED Implemented the DREAMS project with support from Mildmay Uganda with support from PEPFAR through Center for Disease Control.

The Project supports Adolescent Girl and Young Women 10-24 years to protect them from getting infected with HIV. The project operates under an overall goal of; **“Reducing the incidence of new HIV cases among Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) between the ages of 10 to 24 years”**.

As a multi-layered model, DREAMS brings together evidence-based interventions and approaches that addresses the structural drivers that increase Adolescent Girls’ and Young Women’s risk of HIV including; poverty, Gender-Based Violence, exposure to sexual behaviors, and early dropout or missing school. In Mubende District, we operate in 10 sub-counties of; Mubende Municipality, Baggezza, Kiyuni, Kasambya, Butoloogo, Kitenga, Kigando, Madudu, Nabingoola, and Kibalinga.

The project is implemented through the use of peers and facilitators who support the project in facilitating the AGYW with curriculum-based interventions and other interventions at both Model and Community mobile safe spaces in the various sub-county of operation.

### **Purpose.**

The purpose of the project is to contribute to the reduction in the incidence of new HIV cases among AGYW vulnerable, at-risk, Adolescent Girls and Young Women, 10-24 by bringing together evidence-based approaches that address the structural drivers that increase girls’ and young women’s HIV risk.

### **Specific objectives.**

1. To strengthen the economic capacity of AGYW and/or their caregivers to become self-reliant and reduce their vulnerability to risky sexual behaviour and choices.



2. To increase vulnerability at-risk AGYW's knowledge and skills to prevent risk and protect themselves against HIV infection, and proactively seek and access HIV prevention services through peer-led SBCC and mobilization.
3. To enable vulnerable at-risk AGYW actively participate in the planning and delivery of HIV prevention services in their areas through the Girls Engagement Forum (GEF).
4. To increase community awareness and action against harmful socio-cultural norms and practices which put AGYW at increased risk and exposure to HIV infection.

## **2. ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2022.**

During 2022, NIFAED enrolled 16251 AGYW across Mubende District to support the AGYW in layering them with DREAMS service layering package.

All the AGYW enrolled were layered with the DREAMS packages to attain AGYW\_PREV through proper case management planning. Among the services that were given to the AGYW included; curriculum-based interventions (SINOVUYO, stepping stones, and Journeys' plus/NMNW, Aflateen, Financial Literacy, Basic apprenticeship skills training) and provision of secondary services (Gender-Based Violence (GBV), SASA! Methodology for norms changes and other HIV prevention interventions including; Partner Tracking, provision of HTS & PrEP services, education support, adult literacy, condom promotion and provision, BBC sessions/ contraceptive mix and VSLA methodologies).

In the report contains a detailed account of key achievements/milestones that were realised during 2022 as detailed in the narrative below;

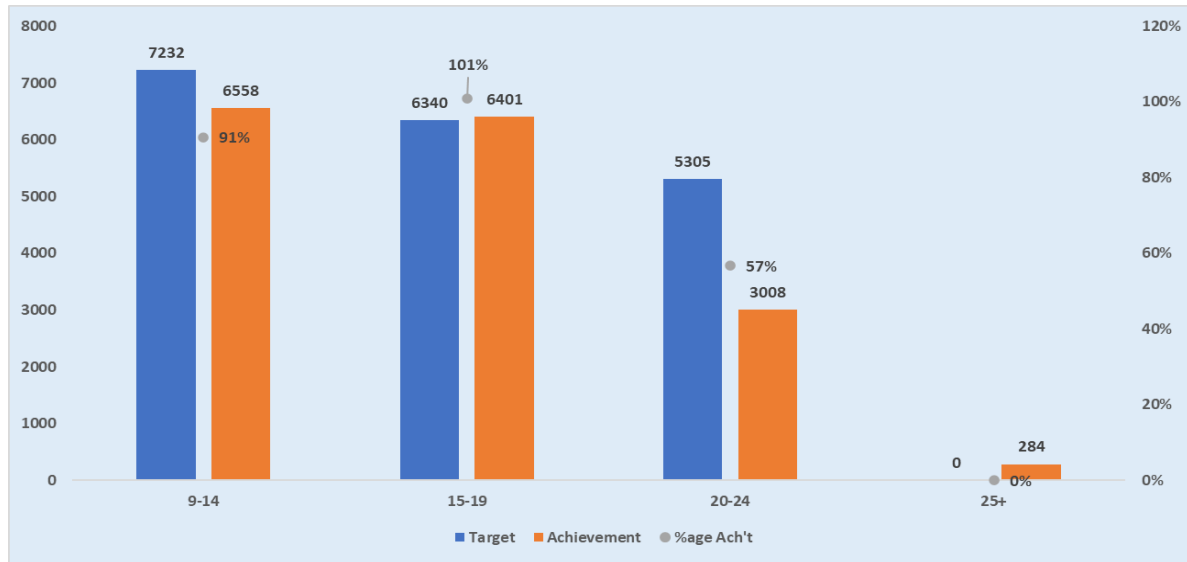
### **2.1.1. To scale-up Identification of AGYW**

NIFAED in 2022 was allocated a target of 18877 AGYW to be activated and layered with appropriate DREAMS services.

Thorough mobilization was conducted to identify these AGYW through the use of different community mobilization methods that included engaging; subcounty CDOs, Local council 1 chairpersons, subcounty councilors, religious leaders, secretaries for women affairs, parents and other key stakeholders in the communities. The stakeholders were involved in community mobilization meetings conducted in each of the areas identified before organizing the AGYW for screening. Before enrollment on DREAMS, Community leaders, community members, VHTs, AGYW and caregivers were enlightened on the DREAMS package and various age bands that are served in DREAMS so as to ease

the mobilization process to get eligible AGYW for DREAMS. During these mobilisation meetings behavioural change communication (BCC) messages were delivered to support AGYW discover themselves and accept the change needed to better their lives. By the end of the year 2022, a total of 16251 (86%) out of 18877 AGYW were activated on the DREAMS programme and received age-appropriate services.

**Fig 1: Cumulative AGYW per Age band Activated in 2022.**



**Source: UDOTS December 2022**

### 2.1.2. Provision of HIV Testing Services

HTS is both an entry point and an on-going service for DREAM Girls. By design, during 2022 all AGYW received their first HIV screening service at entry and a follow up HIV screening for the AGYW who had already been enrolled. By providing HIV screening Services to 16251 AGYW, we identified 4383 AGYW who were eligible for HIV testing and were all tested with support from health workers where only 3 AGYW tested HIV Positive. As part of the DREAMS strategy to reach out to the AGYW with HIV testing services, AGYW were provided with self-testing kits for both AGYW and their partners in addition to the routine community integrated outreaches conducted.

This was an essential intervention to increase HIV- knowledge, HIV status and earlier diagnosis for those living with HIV, it facilitated earlier linkage to care and initiation on lifesaving antiretroviral therapy (ART).



***AGYW during an HTS activity conducted at Mugungulu Moslem primary school.***



**AGYW of M.T.C who were provided with self-testing kits for their partners. On 15/05/2022**

### **2.1.3. Formation & Maintenance of Safe Spaces.**

Safe spaces are designated places where AGYW met to receive DREAMS interventions. During 2022, **11** model and **12** community safe spaces were identified, formed and maintained to support the engagement of AGYW in peer support groups that enhances peer to peer mentorship and instils in them positive behavioral change hence strengthening their social asset building that enables their psychological well-being to be strengthened.

By the end of 2022 following the new changes and guidance, NIFAED identified 3 model safe spaces (Nabingoola, MTC and Kyenda). These were upgraded to the new standards that were set by the funders. At each safe space, there is a girl mentor who is a peer to

AGYW and supports in mobilizing them together as well as ensuring the safe space is kept in good condition. While in the safe space AGYW can freely mingle and share their experiences and challenges with their peers, social workers, Artisans, and facilitators for social asset building. A well laid plan was developed at the sub county level, to continue maintaining 10 community safe spaces and identifying more at community and other village level community safe spaces basing on the Number of AGYW in the different geographical locations.

## **2.2. To strengthen the economic capacity of AGYW and/or their caregivers to become self-reliant and reduce their vulnerability to risky sexual behavior and choices.**

In enhancing the economic capacity of the AGYW to reduce the vulnerability to risk sexual behaviour attributed to lack of money/skills to access the basic needs. NIFAED delivered social-economic strengthening interventions to AGYW under the components of Financial Literacy/Aflateen both in school and out of school and VSLA methodology.

It should be noted that economic disparity related to gender inequality has resulted into complexity situation and exposed AGYW to HIV Infection in searching for a living and addressing their basic needs of life. NIFAED Implemented a robust and evidence-based economic strengthening (ES) interventions in 2022 as a priority for DREAMS in order to reduce AGYW's reliance on transitional sex and strengthen AGYW's self-efficacy and decision-making power in relationships. Economic strengthening was intended for DREAMS beneficiaries at higher risk of HIV to empower them through learning marketable skills and finding suitable jobs.

### **2.2.1 Delivering Combined Socio-Economic Approaches**

NIFAED served AGYW with the packages of social economic strengthening (financial literacy, business skills, apprenticeship skills). The AGYW were trained on how to earn, save, invest and manage their finances to enable them become financially independent and be able to improve their social economic status.

Before provision of apprenticeship skills, market assessments were conducted with the AGYW where they were facilitated to identify marketable trades within their communities and engaged them in a training of such relevant skills which included; Liquid soap making, Basketry, book making, candle making, shoe making, flower making. Additionally, there

were AGYW groups of between 10-15 AGYW who were given a one – off economic support basing on the deliberations from the market assessments made. Cumulatively, a total of 5585 AGYW were reached (**5338 completed short term, 234 received a one off (goats, piggery) and 13 AGYW did not complete short term trades due to relocation**) with basic short term trade skills to strengthen the economic capacity of AGYW to be able to start their own businesses. Long term Vocational skills were also provided to AGYW upon assessment as secondary services to **810** AGYW (**793** completed and **17** did not complete).

**Table 2: AGYW Who completed Basic Short-Term Trade.**

Sub County	Never Completed	Completed	One Off	Total
Baggezza	0	321	0	321
Butoloogo	1	841	93	935
Kibalinga	2	541	21	564
Kigando	0	504	0	504
Kitenga	0	769	120	889
Kiyuni	0	310	0	310
Madudu	1	428	0	429
MTC	1	438	0	439
Kasambya	0	512	0	512
Nabingoola	8	674	0	682
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>5338</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>5585</b>

**Source: UDOTS December, 2022**

All AGYW who completed short term trades received at least a start-up Kit to enable them continue practicing the skills they acquired. AGYW who received apprenticeship start-up appreciated the support and thanked DREAMS Project. The AGYW who received start up Kits have started practicing the skills and making the various products.



**AGYW of Kibyimirizi 20-24 age band doing basketry on 12/06/2022**



**AGYW at Bugomba during Beading session on 19/06/2022.**



**AGYW of Kalungi group receiving Basketry start up kits on the 15 June 2022.**

### **2.2.2 Financial Literacy**

Financial literacy focuses on concepts of money and ways of managing it. It promotes regular saving, wise spending, and ways to make the most of AGYW resources. NIFAED

reached out to **6270** AGYW with Financial Literacy skills where **6184** AGYW have completed and **86** AGYW did not complete all the required sessions due to relocation and dropping out of the DREAMS project. These skills have served as a foundation for Adolescent girls and young women to transit from dependence to independence roles in financial responsibilities. Good money management minimizes the likelihood of AGYW being exposed to risks that lead them to exposure to HIV/AIDS and hence build financial support for the future. "Banura Mariam 19yrs," says; ***"I joined DREAMS on the 19/2/2021 after dropping out of school due to school fees problems I decided to join DREAMS with the objective of attaining at least a skill. When at the safe Space I was introduced to Financial Literacy and then VSLA where I have learnt how to save and so far, I have saved 2,25,000/=, my vision is to save more and start my own business and get independent."***

### **2.2.3 Aflateen:**

To build a good social–economic culture amongst AGYW (9-17 yrs) in reducing the HIV risk factors that come along with poor financial knowledge and skills, in-school AGYW were reached in their respective groups with Aflanteen service. A cumulative total of 10063 AGYW were reached with Aflanteen sessions where 9993 and 70 AGYW dropped out before reaching completing the 19<sup>th</sup> session. With the Sessions received, AGYW are now more enlightened on financial matters of saving, spending.

### **2.2.4 Village Savings and Loans Association:**

Upon being provided with financial literacy sessions, AGYW were mobilised to practice the knowledge and skills acquired during through joining VSLA groups with an aim of enabling them to develop a savings culture, budgeting, and loans management to start viable income-generating activities. The VSLA methodology has been used to reach out to AGYW aged 15-24 years out of school with the support of community-based trainers. This has encouraged AGYW to pull their own resources, and make savings. A total of **1533** AGYW have joined **46** VSLA groups. 30 old VSLA groups were monitored and supported in proper book keeping and loan management procedures with in their groups.



**Mirembe VSLA group during a group session in Kiyuni subcounty on the 10<sup>th</sup> of August 2022.**



**AGYW of City Star Girls Group at Bugomba Safe Space on 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2022 during a VSLA Meeting**

**Table 3: VSLA Groups formed in COP21.**

District	New VSLA groups	Old VSLAs	#AGYW	#Groups Registered	#Groups shared	Amount shared	Cumulative Savings
Mubende	40	15	839	00	23	4,520,000	7,130,700

### **2.2.5 One-Off AGYW Enterprise enhancement:**

Low levels or non-attainment of education among the AGYW (out of school AGYW) has resulted into difficulties in accessing employment, especially in the formal sector which requires one to have a minimum qualification. This leaves the unskilled youth with no



option but to remain unemployed. As a result, the unemployed AGYW have struggled to look for means of survival indulging in actions that expose them to; early child marriages, Transactional sex. To address this the DREAMS project, upon conducting a market assessment with AGYW of the same age band, locality, and group. AGYW identified an enterprise/Agro-business they can take up to uplift their wellbeing. A total of **8** groups with **234** AGYW in Kitenga, Kibalinga and Butoloogo Sub Counties were supported with a one-off in form of goats and pigs to kick start their enterprise. NIFAED has continued to monitor the established enterprise to track their functionality and provide technical support for running the enterprise.

### **2.2.6: Earn As You Learn**

Earn As You Learn (EAYL) is a model that considers the WINGS+ concepts of a hands-on skilling model that attracts and changes the mindset of youth and AGYW. The model offers Practical training in a modular basis guided by a structured curriculum as they perfect skills. The AGYW are intentionally given opportunities by Master Artisans/ trainers to earn money by performing specific tasks for clients (based on the phase completed) under their supervision and the earnings are used to enable them to acquire basic needs and save for startup capital. After completion of training, retained AGYW will have more opportunities to **earn income** in form of wage income to save and invest in starting their own enterprise. AGYW gained market-relevant skills which were assessed by Artisans and certified as evidence that they possess the skills and competencies required to perform tasks in the occupation of choice. In 2022, **123** AGYW were attached to **19** different experienced artisans (Hairdressing, and Tailoring) in the various sub-counties. Upon completion of the attachment, they are identifying strategic places to set up their own enterprise and continue generating income to cater for their needs.



**AGYW attached to Earn as you learn during their practice in Kasambya.**

### **2.2.7 Apprenticeship Skills Training:**

**Apprenticeship** system is an industry-driven, high-quality career pathway where Artisans can develop and prepare their future workforce obtain paid work experience, classroom instruction, and a portable locally-recognized credential. Apprenticeships enable AGYW practitioners to gain a certain qualification license to practice in a regulated occupation.

In 2022, **111** AGYW were identified and assessed for the various apprenticeship trades (welding, computer, motor cycle mechanics, hairdressing and tailoring) and apprenticeship mentors were identified and M.O.U signed between the service providers and the NIFAED across the various sub-counties in the district. These were attached towards the end of 2022 and their training will continue even in 2023 and NIFAED field team will continue monitoring their progress to ensure they complete all the sessions and master the skills.



**5 AGYW of Nabingoola attached to welding apprenticeship during the quarter.**

**2.3. To increase vulnerable at-risk AGYW's knowledge and skills to prevent risk and protect themselves against HIV infection, and proactively seek HIV prevention services using peer-led SBCC and mobilization.**

DREAMS employs a client-centered approach that uses knowledge and skills enhancement to protect the girl child from HIV Infection. NIFAED project employed the implementation of multiple interventions that target different risk factors or behaviors that lead to HIV infection. In order to provide services to target the key vulnerabilities for change, different biomedical, behavioral, and structural interventions are recommended. DREAMS approach, utilizes a theory of behavior change to target different societal, structural and individual factors that lead to an AGYW's increased risk to HIV. These risks are targeted through the Curriculum-Based Interventions rolled out to the enrolled AGYW to equip them with knowledge and skills to prevent and protect themselves against new HIV infections. These are; Stepping Stones a package offered to AGYW of age band 15–24 years that enables them to identify risk factors to HIV vulnerability and empowered to develop risk reduction strategies to address them; School-based HIV and Violence prevention (Journeys Plus and No Means No worldwide) for 9–14 years AGYW that equips them with the Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) competencies to address HIV, VAC and GBV related issues and Parenting and Caregiver Programs (SINOVUYO Methodology) that

equips AGYW and their families with parenting skills to ensure an AIDS-free future for the AGYW.

### **2.3.1 Stepping Stones Methodology.**

Stepping stones methodology is an evidence-based curriculum for the 15-24 years as a primary service to assist in promoting sexual health, and psychological wellbeing, preventing HIV and AIDS; and GBV. The curriculum empowers the AGYW to take on safe and informed healthier choices in life. Empowered to advocate for safer sex with their partners. It urges self-control amongst the AGYW to ensure that they reduce the number of sexual partners when they have earlier been into transactional sex. In this intervention, 8782 AGYW were reached with the intervention (8722 AGYW completed and 60 did not complete the sessions due to the mobility rate where some AGYW relocated before completing the sessions). Additionally, there are categories of AGYW (595) who crossed from 14years to 15years and had already received Journeys plus.

Stepping stones sessions have empowered the AGYW to make important health choices in their lifetime; ***“Hadijah 16 yrs. says” “Joined DREAMS in February 2022, but before I knew little about life whereby, I was disorganized in everything and I used to be very shabby all the time. But when I started attending stepping stones sessions with the DREAMS project at the Kasambya safe space I realized that as a young girl I had to clean myself very well to look presentable. It has also helped me to be very assertive and active amongst my fellow adolescents.”***

“Sharon” (17years) from Barracks Mubende municipality says; ***“During lock down, I had several boyfriends but after enrolling in DREAMS and attending stepping stones sessions, I realised my life was in danger and had to drop them. I have a plan of getting married at the age of 25years.”***

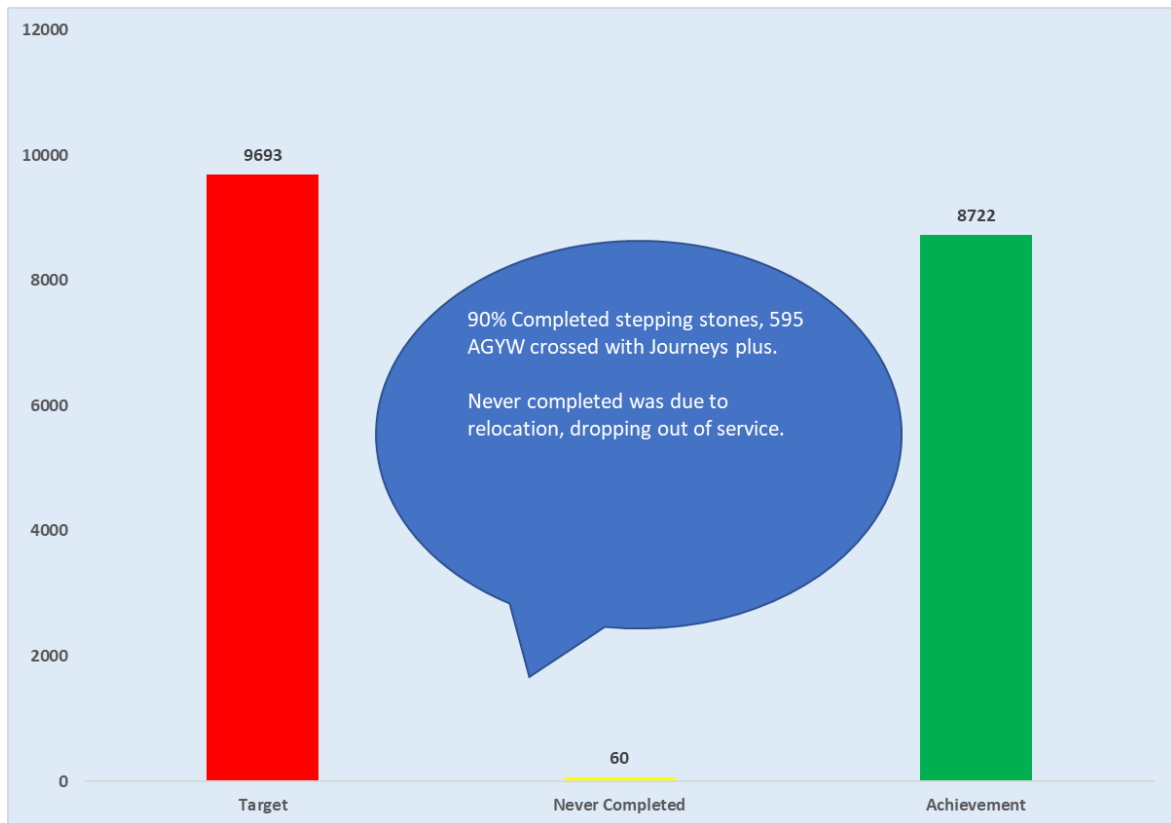


***A stepping stones facilitator during a recap session in Nabingoola Sub County. Photo taken on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2022.***



**Stepping stone sessions at Ngabano safe space on 19<sup>th</sup>/06/2022**

**Figure 3: AGYW who received Stepping stones**



**Source: UDOTS September, 2022**

### **2.3.2 School-based HIV and Violence Prevention (Journeys Plus)**

During 2022, NIFAED delivered school-based HIV and violence prevention interventions to AGYW to provide scientifically accurate information to 9-14years AGYW to equip them with HIV prevention knowledge and build their assertive skills. The sessions provided supported the AGYW in building their Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) competencies to address GBV, VAC and HIV while promoting self-awareness, social awareness, self-management, relationship skills and responsible decision making when living in diverse society.

Journeys plus was provided to **5968** who all completed the sessions to reduce sexual risk behaviors, address GBV, VAC, and HIV-infection while promoting self-awareness, social awareness, self-management, and relationship skills, and responsible decision making when living in a diverse society.



**AGYW of Kitemba primary school during Journeys plus training session on 5**

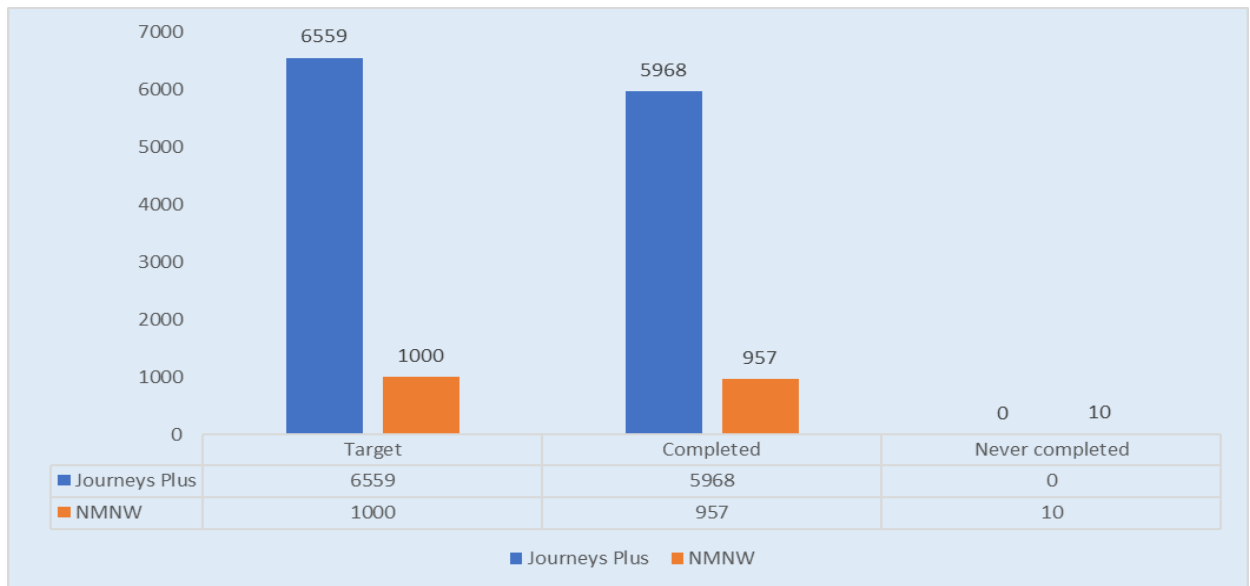
**July 2022.**

### **2.3.3. No Means No Worldwide**

Mubende District remains one of the leading districts in Uganda with high prevalence of violence against children. The exploitation of children continues to be experienced in communities where we operate manifested in violence, abuse, neglect, and torture. This affects the children's physical and psychological growth. No Means No Worldwide was introduced to equip the AGYWs with the necessary defensive skills against potential abusers.

No Means No Worldwide in DREAMS was targeted to be offered to 1,000 AGYW of ages 10-14years in 7 sub-counties of; MTC, Kigando, Kasambya, Kiyuni, Kibalinga Kitenga, and Nabingoola. The AGYW were trained and equipped with the various skills necessary to defend themselves from the potential abusers. Cumulatively, by the end of the quarter, a total of 967 AGYW have been trained where 957 AGYW have completed all the 6 sessions and 10 AGYW did not complete the sessions.

Figure 4: AGYW Performance in Journeys Plus and No means No Worldwide



Source: UDOTS, December 2022.

### 2.3.4 Parenting and Caregiver Programs (SINOVUYO)

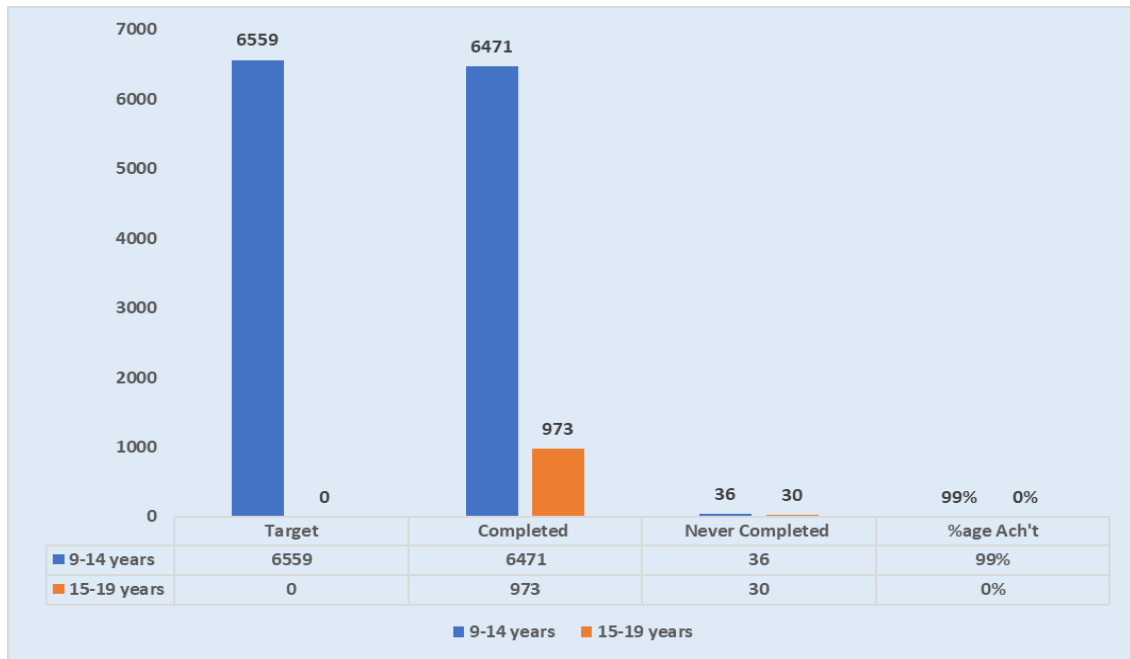
Good Parenting habits are considered to be one of the key protective factors for children and protect them against any form of violence. The DREAMS project layered SINOVUYO (parenting and caregivers on program) with an aim of harmonizing a positive relationship with parents and caregivers as a consistent protective factor for AGYW against a variety of negative health and social outcomes. MILD MAY-NIFAED DREAMS project partnership facilitated parent/caregiver programs to increase caregivers' knowledge/ skills in relating with their children about sexual health, HIV, GBV, violence prevention and response. The curriculum guides on how to best monitor their children's activities and increase positive parenting practices. **SINOVUYO** was provided to the 9-14 years AGYW as a primary package where 6507 AGYW have been reached, 6471 completed all the sessions and 36 did not complete all the 14 sessions. Additionally, SINOVUYO was given to the 15-17 years AGYW as a secondary service where 973 AGYW received the service.



Photo 9: AGYW of Nakivubo undergoing SINO VUYO sessions on 26<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022.



**Figure 5: SINOVUYO Performance**



**Source: UDOTS, December 2022**

**2.3.5. Education Subsidy:**

Nationally there is wide evidence to show that female pupils/students are more vulnerable to school dropout than their counterparts (boys). Educational subsidies are an effective intervention for keeping girls in school and are correlated with higher rates of HIV prevention through decrease in high-risk sexual behaviors, likelihood of early marriage associated with school dropout rates and other negative outcomes among female adolescents. The project provided education subsidy to the in-school vulnerable AGYW 10-19 years who are at the verge of dropping out of school/dropped out due to lack of school fees and scholastic materials.

AGYW identified in the community basing on their enrolment records were further assessed for education subsidy eligibility using HVAT to assess their vulnerability level at household. Eligible AGYW were provided with education subsidy in either of the following ways; provision of scholastic materials (pens, books, rulers, pencils, geometry sets); School fees. During COP21 a total of 5328 AGYW were provided with education subsidy with 846 receiving school fees and 4481 received scholastic materials. The AGYW who received education support were very happy and appreciative and a one “Maureen” (Kibalinga Sub

County) said; ***“My mother had failed to raise money for scholastic materials just after paying for my school fees. This meant I would stay home for another two weeks if I had not received the scholastic materials from DREAMS – Ekitiibwa Kya Mukama (Glory be to God)”***.

Likewise caregivers were also appreciative of education subsidy One of the caregivers from Nabingoola noted that; ***“I am very happy for considering my two girls to receive school fees for this term. I am now hopeful that they will not be disturbed by the school management next term”***.

The head teachers in close supervision of the AGYW at schools were appreciative of the DREAMS education support. Kafundezi primary school head teachers once said, ***“The DREAMS project supported Grace (Not real Names) with school fees and scholastic materials which motivated her to improve on her school attendance resulting into good performance where she scored a first grade in P.7”***



**AGYW at Gogonya parents’ pupils after receiving scholastic materials during the July–September 2022 quarter.**

### **2.3.6. Adult Literacy Activity:**

During 2022, NIFAED identified categories of AGYW who did not know how to read and write and yet some of the curriculum intervention and other services it was important for the AGYW to have such skills. As most of them could not write well their names on the attendance sheets to acknowledge their attendance coupled with inability to interpret whatever the facilitators have delivered at the safe spaces. Therefore, this affected the

quality of AGYW knowledge on the DREAMS services received and worse still affected VSLA management and implementation in terms of record keeping and reduces self-esteem among the AGYW hence affecting the achievement of the program goal. It was against this background that the plan to provide literacy sessions to the AGYW using the national FAL curriculum. This was basically to equip the AGYW with essential life skills in basic reading/writing and numeracy for personal development to build the capacity of our AGYW for income generation and self-reliance. To empower marginalized and vulnerable AGYW groups in society to participate fully as partners in development by enabling them to write and read, to sign on their documents in cases like for example in their community SACCOs and banks, able to count and draw simple budgets for their small businesses on top of being able to take important business records. A total of 10 groups with 140 AGYW were trained to gain skills in hand writing and counting figures basics of 1-100. Key emphasis was also on mastering things like stories in Luganda, how to write money figures and so on the enable them the day-to-day basics in initiating money transactions in the community. A major challenge was of the mixed tribal languages which made it hectic for some of the literacy facilitators. To communicate freely to some of the literate AGYW in the common Luganda language.

### **2.3.7. Behavioral Change Communication Sessions (BCC)**

In the reporting period the DREAMS project conducted BCC (Behavior change communications) sessions across all the safe spaces and in the activities implemented in the district. This has played a cardinal role in increasing knowledge and skills through providing recaps for curriculum-based interventions, and awareness about DREAMS services, Sexual and Reproductive health rights, family planning and GBV. AGYW were in a position to understand the project more and how to support one another as a social asset-building platform. Peer educators, social workers, health workers, VHTs, SASA activists, and counsellors conducted sessions on issues whenever the AGYW met for different services. BCC sessions contributed to community awareness and engaging in the DREAMS activities as AGYW were engaged in the community. It also contributed to awareness, demand, and consumption of condoms, contraceptive mix, HIV testing, GBV case identification, and giving an upper hand to the AGYW to recall what they were trained in the curriculum-based services.



**BCC session by a social worker ta Kiyuni model safe space during the July –September quarter 2022.**



***Photo 13: NIFAED executive director giving A BCC session to a group of AGYW at Kirungi safe space on 23/03/2022.***

### **2.3.8. Condom Promotion and Provision**

Condoms are highly effective at preventing HIV Infection, pregnancy and STIs when used correctly and consistently, therefore, it is a routine activity to promote condom use and distribution among the AGYW at risk and increase their negotiation abilities in encouraging their partners to use them whenever they engage in sexual activities. Condom promotion efforts was enhanced to capitalize on young women’s desires to prevent HIV and unwanted pregnancy. The promotion and provision of male condoms has been offered to AGYW and male sex partners to increase consistent use and availability. By the end of 2022, a cumulative figure of **4065** sexually active AGYW were provided with male condoms as an HIV preventive measure. To scale up the number of AGYW who access and use condoms, NIFAED facilitated a youth-friendly environment and

provided safer sex sensitization to ensure that AGYW understand the importance of consistent condom use in protecting their sexual and reproductive health and in dual method use for protection from both pregnancy and STIs.

### **2.3.9. Expand & Improved Contraceptive Mix**

The AGYW in the district experience high rates of early pregnancy which is associated with lower educational attainment and socio-economic status for making informed choices make AGYW more vulnerable to transactional sex, gender-based violence, and potentially HIV. HIV incidence significantly increases during pregnancy and the post-partum period. Additionally, the high rates of pregnancy are sometimes due to unmet need for voluntary FP, which increases risks for pregnancy-related morbidity and mortality. Sexual violence can lead to unplanned pregnancy. DREAMS provided counseling and health education about the mix of available contraceptive methods through the BCC Sessions in coordination with the health facility workers across the district as a means to preventing pregnancy, with an emphasis on dual method use. Accumulative total of 193 AGYW have received Family Planning services that include; IUDs, Condoms, Injectable, Implants, and pills. Awareness of family planning services uptake will continue to be our top priority during community mobilization and engagement activities.

### **2.3.10. PrEP Services.**

There is extensive evidence that PrEP is a highly effective intervention to reduce HIV acquisition. In enhancing prevention of HIV by the project, PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) was provided as an effort to support the AGYW in discordant relationships and those with high risk of getting infected with HIV/AIDS. Effectiveness of PrEP is linked to adherence which is dependent upon different behavioral, structural and societal factors and the support from partners. During the integrated community outreaches and the routine BCC sessions, AGYW were sensitized and screened about PrEP as a protection from HIV infection in circumstances when they find themselves in sex acts with partners of unknown status and those that are in discordant relationships. In the reporting period cumulatively 496 AGYW (15-19 Years) were screened for PrEP where 246 were eligible and all initiated with support from the respective Health Facilities.

### **2.3.11. Service Layering.**

Layering, or the provision of multiple evidence-based services from the DREAMS core package to each active DREAMS participant, is a core principle of DREAMS as an outcome evaluation to show that a layered approach is more effective at mitigating HIV risk than a single intervention. Additionally, this approach helps to ensure that AGYW are surrounded with critical support to keep them safe from HIV and other risks.

Service layering basically looks at the process where AGYW grouped in their respective groups of both in school and out of school in the community to receive the various curriculum-based interventions that equip them with socio-economic preventive measures that are both practical and theoretical. All these designed into various small sessions that enable the AGYW to comprehend all the knowledge and skills being provided by the facilitators with an aim of changing their negative social –cultural mind sets that contributes to the high risks of HIV/AIDS spread among them.

Upon screening and assessment, the AGYW were characterized and grouped according to their age and needs to reduce the level of vulnerability and ultimately stop new HIV infections by addressing the structural drivers such as poverty, gender inequality, and risk of dropping out of school and sexual violence. Cumulatively, **583** Groups where **254** groups were for 9-14years old, **218** were for 15-19years and **111** were for 20-24 years. Through the groups formed services were delivered to the AGYW in the different age bands and attained 97% (15596) AGYW\_PREV by the end of the quarter where 91% (14692) attained PRIM\_SEC (Completed primary and received at least a secondary service) 6% (904) completed only a primary package.

## **2.4. To enable vulnerable at-risk AGYW actively participate in the planning and delivery of HIV prevention services in their areas.**

### **2.4.1 Girl Engagement Forum (GEF).**

The Girl Empowerment Forum (GEF) is very instrumental in ensuring service provision to AGYW through facilitating curriculum-based interventions, mobilization of AGYW to the program, organizing caregiver meetings, tracking of male partners, distribution of condoms to AGYW and their sexual partners, organizing and leading BCC sessions in safe spaces. The GEF members participate in advocacy activities for instance District and Sub County steering committee meetings where they engage the local leadership to discuss

and address issues that affect the AGYW and ensure actions are developed and implemented. There are 06 GEF committees in the sub counties of Kasambya, MTC, Butoloogo, Nabingoola, Kiyuni and Madudu. Functionalization of GEF Committees will remain our top priority in 2023 to ensure that we achieve 100% sub counties are covered.

## **2.5. To increase community awareness and action against harmful socio-cultural norms and practices, that put AGYW at increased risk and exposure to HIV infection.**

Community awareness of harmful practices was conducted through norms change using the SASA methodology. Using the awareness campaign, Gender-Based Violence (GBV) prevention and response were strengthened through awareness-raising and the provision of Post Violence Care (PVC) services for AGYW in the district. NIFAED worked with NDF and AGYW to create gender-based violence awareness amongst them and serve them HIV prevention services including; VMMC, HIV testing, and psycho-social support thereby addressing the structural drivers that expose AGYW to HIV infections.

### **2.5.1. SASA! Methodology**

Using the Local Activism strategy, the Foundation engaged community members in activities such as dialogues around drivers that increase HIV and GBV risks such as harmful norms and power imbalance. These were reached through Antenatal Care days, Village meetings, Cultural Leaders' Meetings, Parents and Teacher Association (PTA) meetings in the sub-counties of Kiyuni, Butoloogo, MTC, Kibalinga, Kigando, Kasambya, Kibalinga, Baggezza, Kitenga, Nabingoola, and Madudu.

Using the Local Activism strategy, the Foundation engaged community members in activities such as dialogues around drivers that increase HIV and GBV risk such harmful norms and power imbalance.



***SASA session at Madudu Ngabano safe space on the 5/09/2022.***

### **2.5.2. GBV screening and provision of Post Violence Care (PVC).**

Gender-Based Violence (GBV) plays a big role in the spread of new HIV infections. DREAMS conducts GBV screening for all enrolled AGYW to ensure that risks to violations of their rights that harm their mental health are identified and addressed through curriculum-based interventions, psycho social support, referrals, and linkages to legal aid. AGYWs in the quarter were supported with first-line support to address the GBV cases.

***Table 4: Cumulative PVC services and by GBV type by end of December 2022***

<b>Type of GBV</b>	<b>Post Violence Care Service Received</b>			<b>PREP</b>	<b>Others</b>
	<b>Psychosocial support</b>	<b>HCT</b>	<b>Linked to Police</b>		
Sexual	915	03	04	01	00
Physical	864	00	0	00	00
Psychosocial	2272	00	00	00	00
<b>Total</b>	<b>4051</b>	<b>03</b>	<b>03</b>	<b>01</b>	<b>00</b>

**Source UDOTS December, 2022**

### **2.5.3. Partner tracking and service provision**

It is important to consider reaching male sex partners as an HIV reduction strategy. Biomedical services for men are highly effective in reducing HIV acquisition and reducing HIV transmission to sexual partners. However, men are reluctant to be tested and linked to care. DREAMS teams used the information about the characteristics of male sexual partners of AGYW to engage with other PEPFAR services on targeting men with those



characteristics for HTS, VMMC, and ART. To reduce the likelihood of HIV acquisition among men and boys as well as protecting their female sex partners. In the reporting period a cumulative of 616 male partners were reached at with the various services but to scale up the numbers, Strategies have been designed to reach out to the AGYW partners including; inviting them for services at the safe spaces, working closely with NDF in male engagement activities, reaching them through their informal groups, and liaising with the health facilities to conduct targeted community activities to these partners.

#### **2.5.4. Maintenance of Perfection Centre**

The perfection center is the place where students can perfect their skills through learning usually in pairs or small groups within the area practically. This designated space allows youths to work collaboratively by accomplishing activities in a given allotted amount of time and move to the next level of creating /her own employment/ job after completion. The learning center has also provided youths with opportunities to practice hands-on skills and social interaction.

The perfection center in Mubende was created to enhance productivity and growth of the AGYW. It embraces all youths in the age band of 15-24 in need of skills. Frequent Changes and improvements on products made at the various safe spaces in the community. The center is open throughout the week and is managed by a perfection center manager who is a graduate of DREAMS with skills in computer, basketry, and tailoring. Materials from safe spaces are displayed and being sold to the community including; liquid soap, shoes, and clothes. Skilled Artisans in tailoring, shoemaking, and soon computers have been identified and AGYW has also been identified. Skills perfection were offered in the above skills during the quarter and we are looking at seeing more sales from the products sold at the center and skills development.

Skilled Artisans in tailoring, shoemaking, and a computer have been identified to support the AGYW in perfecting their skills. To enhance sustainability the perfection center has an account where it saves the sales on a weekly basis. This money is being used to restock products. To scale up the market of the DREAMS products we are in the process of securing space in **CAWODISA** Weekly market to showcase the products in anticipation of scaling up the market.

To enhance sustainability the perfection center has an account where it saves the sales on a weekly basis. This money is being used to re-stock products. During the quarter accumulative of 1,092,000/= was deposited on the accounts, total expenditures in the quarter. Below is an illustration of the income and expenditures of the December 2022.

**Table 5: Shows the perfection Centre incomes and expenditures:**

Month	Amount	Monthly expenditures	Net balances
July	467,000	5000	462,000
August	340,000		340,000
September	294,000	4000	290,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>19,000</b>	<b>1,092,000/</b>



**AGYW at the perfection center under the instruction of a T-shirt senior experts trying to perfect their skills in fabrics and designs.**



**The perfection Centre manager attending to a community customer.**

## 2.6 OTHER ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED

### 2.6.1 Quality Improvement Projects

Quality improvement plays an instrumental role in addressing the implementation gaps identified to improve on performance. As a district, we are implementing CQI activities in now 5 sub counties of; Kitenga, Nabinoola, Madudu, Kiyuni, and Kitenga. During this CQI the key indicators considered were; male partner circumcision, PREP screening and initiation, Family planning counselling and Provision of Family Planning services, Activeness of AGYW and passports update. All these CQI-projects ended on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022. These projects were being followed up by the QI Coaches in the respective sub counties and reported in the national data base. And during the period of implementation, we had QI METS/MHO team support supervision in ensuring there is improved documentation of services in the registers.



#### QI Visit from METS and MOH meeting at Nabinoola model safe space

MUG and NIFAED supported the mentorship of the field teams at their respective safe spaces in Continuous Quality Improvement Mentorship (CQI) on 5S. The methodology looked at a workplace that is clean, uncluttered, safe, and well organized to help reduce waste and optimize productivity. In that all It is the foundation for all quality improvement initiatives, with an overall objective of mentoring the safe space team with the knowledge of applying the CQI 5S principles in the day-to-day maintenance of the safe spaces across the district.

A team of 4 CQI 5S mentors from the Mubende referral hospital moved to the 11 safe spaces across that's: Nabingoola, Kibalinga, Kasambya, Kigando, M.T.C high way /Kirungi, Kitenga, Kiyuni, Madudu and Bugomba, and Baggezza. The safe space teams were oriented and mentored on the 5S principles in-depth and it was composed of: The team acquired the art and skills on how to apply the 5S principles – as it's elaborated more in the report: -

**1st S: Sort:** Focuses on eliminating unnecessary items from the workplace (tables, drawers, cabinets, and stores). Remove unnecessary instructions and posters on the walls and on the notice board.

**2nd S: Set:** After Sorting, organize the layout of items to their designated locations by use of tapes and labels. Items should be arranged in a manner that promotes efficient workflow, with equipment used most often being the most easily accessible.

**3rd S: Shine** (Designate the responsibility for keeping areas clean to staff members and cleaning regularly. Place waste bins and cleaning tools in the appropriate workplace. This principle calls us to shine our spaces always by doing the necessary cleaning and scrubbing to ensure they are clean)

**4th S: Standardize** (This looks at standardizing the 3S of Sorting, Setting, and Shining as the norm in every workplace).

**5th S: Sustain** (Training people to follow good work habits and the strict observation of workplace rules Periodical staff training (CM), Poster display, and on-the-job training. **SUSTAIN could mean establishing a teamwork environment for improving the quality of care.)**

**Pictorial:**



**KASAMBYA SAFE BEFORE AND HANDS ON MENTORSHIP**



### **Mentors in Kiyuni and store after hands-on**

#### **2.6.2. Internal DQA and SQA Assessments**

With the Support from the Ag. SM&E and the Project Officer-MUG, NIFAED team conducted an Internal DQA/SQA activity in Kigando, Kitenga, Nabingoola, Madudu, MTC and Baggezza to; Determine the accuracy & consistency of data reported into UDOTS and the quality-of-service provision to AGYW to inform programming from Oct 2021 to Aug 2022 in Mubende District.

Specifically, the exercise considered the following objectives; To determine the accuracy and consistency of data reported into UDOTS from Oct 2021 to Aug 2022; To determine whether AGYW's expectations from the project are met from Oct 2021 to Aug 2022; To determine whether the services provided to AGYW meet the set standards from Oct 2021 to Aug 2022. The action plans developed from the exercise (Data cleaning, provision of recaps, re-initiating AGYW on services) as detailed in the DQA/SQA Report are being implemented in preparation for an external DQA/SQA to be conducted by METS.

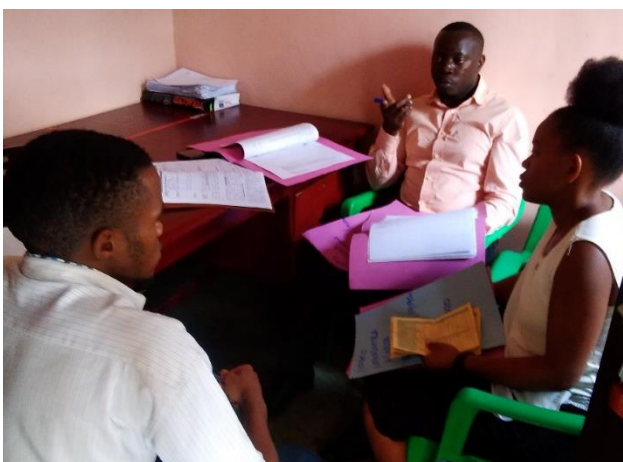


**Shows data verification at Highway model safe space Mubende TC**

### **2.6.3: Technical Support Supervision.**

**Internal Support supervision:** There was internal support supervision by; NIFAED SMT (M&E, Data officer, Executive director and Project officer) to verify the data which was being submitted and tracking completion of curriculum-based interventions, preparations for mobilisation and screening for COP-22 targets. SES deliverables, Gentrack performance and general safe space management.

**External Support Supervision:** The external TSS was conducted by the Mildmay Team; DREAMS Project Co-ordinator, DREAMS Supervisors, Ag. Senior M&E, DREAMS project supervisor and project officer Mubende. The support given to the team was on service layering improvement, documentation, improving community mobilisation strategies especially the use of screeners and Data review was done.



**The mildmay project officer taking the Butoloogo social workers through the case management process during a support supervision on the 5 June 2022 at Bubenge safe space.**



**The DREAMS coordinator mildmay inspecting a basketry making group in Butoloogo during one of her support supervision activities in Mubende district during the quarter.**



**The mildmay DREAMS supervisor and the NIFAED M&E during a support supervision at Kitenga safe space on the 14 of June 2022.**

In addition, we also held district Joint Technical Support Supervisions to the 10 safe spaces across the district. The district team including; Assistant RDC, SPWO, Senior Labour Officer, and Education Officer. The district team conducted the exercise to provide technical backstopping in the implementation of the project, lobby for resources to support AGYW from the government and make necessary recommendations for improvement especially as we are preparing for a one-year extension while implementing within the district. The team guided the staff on project implementation gaps including; safe space management, service layering with quality and proper documentation of activities done in the specified Sub counties.



***District Support supervision team in Madudu Ngabano safe space on the 23/08/22.***



***The SPWO interacting with an AGYW in Bugomba safe space (Butoloogo) on 23/08/22.***

### **2.6.5 Gentrack Assessment**

Gentrack assessment is a tool that helps to determine the level of vulnerability of the AGYW on the DREAMS. This vulnerability is determined at entry (baseline), Follow on (follow up) and exit from the programme. From the onset of COP-21, Gentrack was being conducted using paper work version which since shifted to ODK Application. During the quarter all Gentrack conducted on paperwork was entered into the ODK Application and by the end of COP21, we had conducted baseline Gentrack on 10,042 AGYW and 2561 AGYW with a follow up Gentrack. The process of follow up Gentrack will continue even in COP-22. Amongst the key recommendations from the exercise giving targets for volunteers who support in conducting Gentrack, conducting baseline Gentrack at the time of enrollment for all AGYW and timely supporting the field teams with data to submit their data on time.



### **2.6.6 DREAMS steering committee meeting at the district level and sub-county level**

As mandate for Mildmay and its implementing IP to coordinate effectively with the local government at all levels. NIFAED conducted district and sub county DREAMS coordination meetings to share the project performance and strategies to improve our performance. These were useful as they created a platform not only providing feedback for COP-21 performance but also as a mobilisation tool for COP-22 targets. The meetings provided a good platform to clearly discuss the project performance, challenges and designing strategies to address the gaps on the project implementation. In this we were able to get the attention of the stakeholders like the youth councillor who are now mobilising the fellow youths (20-24) in the various sub counties.

### **2.6.7 DREAMS Integration with other service providers.**

During the quarter DREAMS project in the district have worked with other implementing partner in ensuring prevention of HIV scourge among the AGYW. These service providers have facilitated bi-directional referrals for the AGYW on the project. These involved referrals from the DREAMS implementing partner NIFAED with the other mildmay supporting arm like VMMC, PMC, Health facilities and this has enhanced on the scale up of the secondary services like family planning, male partner tracking, condom distribution to prep screening and initiations across the sub counties. A total of 6 male partners were circumcised during the quarter, 105 male partners tracked through the provision of the oral self-testing kits to the partners.

In preparation for 2023, we visited ICYD offices to mobilise for referral and linkages of OVC eligible for DREAMS. During our visit, A total of 350 AGYW were line listed pending complete referral documentation to be screened and enrolled on the DREAMS Programme.

### **2.6.8. Male partner characterization:**

Male characterization was conducted across the district specifically to design clear strategies to reach out to men with DREAMS services. For proper characterization of the Male partners, AGYW were engaged in group focused discussions to ascertain reasons why AGYW are attracted to their partners, what motivates partners to seek for health

services and barriers Partners encounter in seeking health services. From the engagements made the following were the key issues noted;

- When asked about what motivates AGYW Partners to seek health services, it was noted that they do it with a motive of; knowing their HIV status, having sex with their partners and after feeling STI symptoms.
- On the barriers that affect AGYW from seeking for health services, the following were enlisted; waiting time at the health facility, long distances to the health facility and lack of enough time.
- The AGYW are also attracted to their partners basing on their money, provision of basic needs and their physical appearance.

### **2.6.9 Facilitator training.**

In a bid to scale up the provision of curriculum-based interventions, Facilitators of the various curriculum were trained to fill the gaps in sub-counties that had inadequate facilitators. Facilitators were trained in Journeys (20), and 27 for financial literacy facilitators. Additional facilitators trained were very key in addressing service layering gaps and significantly reduced the figure of never started AGYW in the district.



**Ntakyo ALICE takes the participants through the financial literacy session during the three days training. On the 28<sup>th</sup> of April 2022.**

### **2.6.10 Mini graduation of AGYW for COP20**

Kasambya AGYW served in COP 20 were graduated in hairdressing. The mini-graduation ceremony was for 10 AGYW and was attended by the Project Officer MUG, Project Officer NIFAED, Kasambya Deputy Town Clerk. They received the following packages as their start up kits;

Braids; hand driers, towels, bucket, hair treatment, hair conditioner, hair relaxer, rollers, hair moisturiser, shampoo, curl activator, hair oil, salon charts and salon mirror.



**Kasambya town council Deputy town clerk, Mildmay project officer, secretary for Gender handing over the hair dressing start-up kit to the AGYWs in Kasambya Sub County.**

### **2.6.11 Holding of Board meeting**

NIFAED is governed by the Board of governors who make the overall decision in the organisation. The Committee sits on a quarterly basis to review our performance, challenges and design strategies for better performance. During 2022, 4 Board meetings were conducted to give direction to the organisation activities. During these meeting key decisions were made including; Recruitment, Disciplinary and implementation condition for activities.

### **3.0 LESSONS LEARNT.**

AGYW in Adult Literacy classes prefer conducting sessions in a more convenient place as they feel embarrassed and stigmatized to be identified as illiterate.

Monthly CMEs conducted with staff resulted into improvement in service layering during the quarter where staff are now well versed with the various interventions in providing services especially those for facility based.

Timely Comprehensive service layering of DREAM girls is very key in achieving AGYW\_PREV on time. The delay for our AGYW to start the different curriculum-based interventions greatly affected our performance and 95% AGYW\_PREV was realized late in August 2022. Hence, in the subsequent enrollments' emphasis will be on starting AGYW on the different services immediately after enrollment.

Conducting community meetings with CDOs and head teachers yield results in time and the practice need to be adopted across all sub counties in the new COP22 to accelerate identification of AGYW especially 20-24 years Category.

#### **4.0 CHALLENGES AND STRATEGIES**

Mobilization of 20-24 Age band was challenging due to high mobility of the AGYW and due to the competing priorities among this age group.

Tight schedule of schools greatly affected service layering for the in-school for the different curriculum interventions. In such schools we tried to negotiate for more time with the Head teachers to increase on the speed of performance.

There were a high number of AGYW dropping out of PREP Services due to various reasons ranging from; long distance relationship, caregivers stopping the AGYW to take drugs, side effects of the drugs and the pill burden. We continuously conducted a root cause analysis to determine the actual cause and designing individual specific action plan to intervene.

#### **5.0 CONCLUSION**

NIFAED during 2022 activities as a district we had a highest DREAMS target across the Mubende region project of 18877 AGYW and managed to activate a total of 16251 AGYW (86%) where 97% of the active attained AGYW\_PREV with 91% attaining PRIM\_SEC and 6% having completed only a primary package. Given the fact that we are crossing to COP-22 all the remaining AGYW are still ongoing with the primary package, provision of secondary services will be our priority for the AGYW to achieve PRIM\_SEC up to 90% by the end of the month.

## ANNEX 1: AKAALO AMATENDO

### 1. Bubenge Village “Akaalo Amatendo”!!!!

In an effort to improve the village to a level of a model village, numerous activities were conducted ranging from DREAMS services to community services and other health interventions. A total of **145** AGYW between the age band of 09 -24 years were enrolled in this village and a total of four (04) groups formed. During the quarter of July – September 2022 AGYW have been recapped in the knowledge of the different curriculums, that’s to say stepping stones, Sinovuyo, Aflateen, Journeys plus and financial literacy and ongoing, short-term trades which include; Basket making, liquid soap making, Book making, and have completed this month.

The AGYW were all rescreened for HIV, 02 of them are pregnant and were referred for ANC services at Kabuubwa HC II, (**03**) of the AGYW initiated on Family planning, **29** AGYW provided with condoms.

In trying to reach out to the partners of AGYW, a total of 12 partners have been traced provided with SASA, Condoms, HIV screening and BCC sessions.

With the support of the Community Development Officer of Butoloogo Sub County, Mr. Simon Bingi, we conducted a community mobilization meeting for COP-22, sensitization of community members on development activities and the available opportunities. During the meeting, we conducted demonstrating of sanitation and hygiene activities in the village.

With support of Nnabagereka Development Foundation, we conducted “**Bulungi**



**Bwansi”** where the community members participated in the cleaning of the drainage channel that had stagnant water acting as a breeding ground for Mosquito nets. The exercise has aroused the community service aspect in the community and community members are willing to

participate in community service aspects.

**Community members participating in the Bulungi Bwansi Activity which was conducted on 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2022.**



**A Social worker exploring the importance of working with local civic groups to identify, eliminate eyesores and beautify the local environment.**



## ANNEX 2: SUCCESS STORIES

### 1. Tailoring skills restores Kitone's hopes.



I am Kitone (MUG/MUB/14/1868CA ) aged 20 years old who dropped out in S.4 due to lack of school fees from Nalyankanja LCI. I joined DREAMS in November 2021 upon receiving information from the Chairperson. I admired to be part of the DREAMS project after being contacted and assessed by the social worker. I was attached to In God we Trust Group Kirumbi where I received stepping stones and financial literacy sessions

where I gained different skills on how I can fight the spread of new HIV VIRUS in adolescent girls.

During market assessment, I selected Liquid soap making and Tailoring. This is because I had passion in tailoring since I had earlier on made an attempt to train at SENA FOUNDATION from kibuli Kampala, but failed to get a certificate due to school fess challenges. I trained in tailoring and gained more skills that I used to replace the Artisan who had withdrawn from training. Using my first as an Artisan, I hired a room, bought some Bitengi and other materials, I kept my salary for 3 months totaling to 900,000/= and I used the money to buy 2 sawing machines each at 450000. I hired someone to be monitoring my business during working hours until I go back home. I have a plan of scaling up my business by buying more sewing machines and establish a strong class.



***Sanyuka kitone training AGYW during a tailoring Class.***



## 2. A school Drop Out Regains hope in Tailoring and liquid soap making skills:



**NASSALI HADIJAH**

**MUG/MUB/01/1035CY 16 years old out of school.**

I dropped out of school after my Primary Leaving Examination due to lack of school fees to take me to the secondary level. So I had to be home just doing house work because mum did not have money so she decided to take on my fellow brothers and sisters who are in the lower classes and I

stayed home as mummy is looking for money to take me to the technical for some skills like tailoring.

***Hadijah as she is try to make a hand bag at the safe space.***

So it was then when the chairperson LC1 came looking for girls who are out of school and we convened in one place. so there came a man called Jorum from NIFAED who told us about the DREAMS project as one of the projects aims at fighting against the spread of HIV and that it doesn't stop there it also gives some skills like liquid soap making, basketry, book making, hair dressing and also hearing one of my most wanted skills and that's tailoring.

He screened me and to come back gave us ID numbers, trained in stepping stones and financial a gentleman to train us in financial literacy. In stepping stones I learnt how to protect myself from HIV and also all the possible preventive measures like using a condom and always testing first before having unprotected sex.

In financial literacy I learnt how to plan, budget and spend my money and also how to save since am in a saving group of KIRUMI WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION that am able to save at least 500/= every Saturday and am able to have some money for to boost my liquid soap business and sell to the residents of Kirumi and Ndeeba.

I also got a chance of getting the skill of Liquid soap making and my group got start-up of Liquid soap making. Currently we are engaged in liquid soap making as a business with ready market.

Luckily I thank God that I was able to move to the safe space for tailoring since it was part of my dreams and I had got a golden chance.

On reaching the safe space the social worker welcomed me and indeed he gave me chance to join the tailoring class and since then up to date I have been learning tailoring and as of today am a perfect tailor that can at least make different designs of clothes and hope as of now am good to start my own tailoring shop that's if mummy at least gets money to buy me a machine.

I am really so grateful and thankful to the Almighty Lord for this great chance that he granted to me because without this I could be somewhere else could be having children because men in the village had started sweet talking to me but DREAMS has really empowered me that I can now even report these guys to mum and further steps are taken.

I also thank the Almighty Lord that I now have the skills that can at least take me to another level in my life whereby I can be able to earn something at the moment

**Captured by:**  
**KATUNGI JORAM**

**Social worker**

### **3. Tusingwire Raises Capital through Liquid Soap Making:**



Tusingwire Annet another Earn as you learn AGYW testifies “I was enrolled on DREAMS program in February 2022, without any skills in hairdressing, and nothing like an income source that could give me a stable income. When I was enrolled on program, I was trained in hairdressing alongside other curriculum-based interventions like stepping stones and financial literacy, but since my

challenge was lack of stable source of income. I could not easily earn me some money because I had not captured the various hairdressing styles and the little I had mastered I lacked the capital to buy the necessary materials to work on my small community customers.

However, When we were trained in liquid making, this gave me a chance to raise some money, which I used to buy some material and plait some women at my village, and also buy some pigs to rear at my home. Later when the EAL program came, I was blessed that I was among them that were to benefit, and this has marketed me, helped me get confidence, customer care, and when given a pay by my artisan, I was able to start a cloth

selling business alongside widening my pig rearing project. I now provide my basic needs and I hope to grow bigger and stress free.”

Thanks to Mildmay and NIFAED for the great opportunity that I taped to fulfill my goals in life.

**Captured by: Muhumuza Allan**

**Social worker Kiyuni subcounty.**