

UNITED FOR PREVENTION

UGANDA



United for Prevention (U4P) was a Frontline AIDS project which ran from April 2023 to September 2024. It supported civil society and community coalitions in seven African countries to hold their national governments accountable for implementing the commitments outlined in the [Global HIV Prevention 2025 Road Map](#). The participating coalitions were located in Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

In this profile we share highlights from the implementation of the U4P project in Uganda, which was led by Alive Medical Services (AMS).



JOINING A COALITION AMPLIFIES THE VOICES OF INDIVIDUAL ORGANISATIONS. IT LENDS THEM CREDIBILITY, AND GIVES ACCESS TO SPACES THAT SOME ORGANISATIONS, ESPECIALLY KEY POPULATIONS, OR YOUTH LED ORGANISATIONS, WOULD NOT HAVE ON THEIR OWN"

(SSI, U4P coalition, Uganda)

U4P Coalition in numbers



13 coalition members*



14 significant moments of change recorded in the project advocacy log



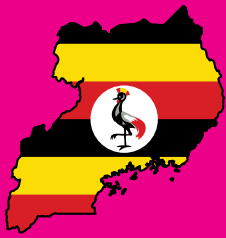
4 advocacy asks



17 HIV prevention spaces in which U4P members participated**

*AMS (Coalition Lead), Spectrum, QYU, Coloured Voices, AIC, HEPS, TEU, ABC, NAFOPHANU, UNASO, AWAC, UNYPA, ICWEA)

**National HIV prevention committee, Differentiated service delivery models Community Led Monitoring, Index testing Technical Working Group (TWG), National Condom Coordination committee, The South-South HIV Prevention Learning Network (SSLN) Uganda AIDS Council (UAC), Mental health and wellness TWG Ministry of Health MoH, Adolescents and young people Forum UAC, Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) TWG MOH, Emerging Young Leaders Programme Community Led Monitoring, Index testing TWG, National Condom Coordination committee, SSLN Uganda AIDS Council (UAC), Mental health and wellness TWG MoH, Adolescents and young people Forum UAC, PrEP TWG MOH, Emerging Young Leaders Programme

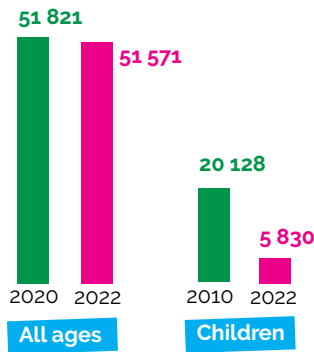


COUNTRY OVERVIEW

The U4P coalition in Uganda conducted a PESTLE¹ analysis, which was also later validated and updated following the development of an **HIV Prevention and Accountability** report. Key findings from their analysis and Accountability Report that informed their advocacy strategy are highlighted below.



New HIV infections



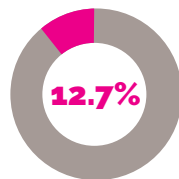
The Uganda AIDS Commission (UAC)

is the government's body charged with coordinating the national multisectoral response to address HIV. UAC has done well in terms of coordinating a multisectoral approach and providing space and technical expertise for actors to engage on HIV prevention. However, limited financing cripples its ability to fulfil its mandate.

Estimated HIV prevalence among **key populations** (KPs)²:



sex workers



men who have sex with men (2018)



people who use drugs



transgender people

The Introduction of the Anti-Homosexuality Act in 2023, and other punitive policies targeting key populations have created a **hostile environment for HIV prevention**.



Even though the Abuja Declaration (2001) called for at least 15% of annual expenditure to be allocated for health, the Uganda **health sector budget** as a proportion of the National Budget has stagnated between 6-9% for the last decade. It **dropped to 6% in 2021/2022** from 7.2 % in 2019/2020.

Since 2016, with the parliamentary ban on sex education beyond abstinence, **sexuality education in schools has been cancelled**.



LEGAL ENVIRONMENT	Criminalised?
Same-sex sexual acts	CRIMINALISED
Sex work	CRIMINALISED
Drug use or possession for personal use	CRIMINALISED
Transgender people	CRIMINALISED
Gender expression	CRIMINALISED
HIV transmission, non-disclosure, or exposure	CRIMINALISED

Source: UNAIDS Laws and Policies Analytics, Human Dignity Trust

¹ A PESTLE analysis investigates the political, economic, social, technological, legal and environmental context.

² UNAIDS considers gay men and other men who have sex with men, sex workers, transgender people, people who inject drugs and prisoners and other incarcerated people as the five main key population groups that are particularly vulnerable to HIV and frequently lack adequate access to services. [Sourced here.](#)

ADVOCACY STRATEGIES, ADVOCACY ASKS AND PROGRESS MADE



Alignment to action in the Global HIV Prevention Road Map	Advocacy asks	Progress achieved	Progress status
Action 2: Increased coverage of PrEP services at subnational level reaching those most in need	Regional implementing partners and district health teams are committed to increase the number of outreach sites for PrEP in: Soroti, Kamuli, Tororo districts by September 2024.	Through targeted advocacy engagements and technical assistance, the U4P coalition in Uganda influenced the Department of Health (DoH) to expand PrEP outreach to sites in all target districts (14 new sites, strengthened six existing sites). This involved the training of 170 health workers in 20 target facilities.	Achieved
	Regional partners and district health teams disseminate and use a referral directory to improve interfacility referral mechanisms for PrEP in the districts of Soroti, Kamuli, Tororo.	The U4P coalition has finalised a referral directory, which was validated in August 2024. The directory is being disseminated and used by regional partners and district health teams.	Medium
Action 4: An operationalised National HIV Prevention 2025 road map	UAC delivers a final draft of the HIV prevention road map at national and subnational levels.	Through the advocacy of the U4P coalition, the road map was drafted in May 2024. Validation was still pending in September 2024.	High
Action 7: Strengthened linkages between facilities and schools	The government demonstrates commitment for and the development of plans for the enhanced collaboration between health facilities and schools to ensure that adolescents and young people have improved access to SRHR, HIV information and youth-friendly health services in the Soroti, Kamuli and Tororo Districts.	Thanks to the coalition's engagements with the DoH and District Education Officer, young people in target districts will have access to SRHR, HIV information and youth-friendly health services. This was achieved through a partnership with local health facilities, which will offer training to school leadership and management communities.	High

OUTCOME STORY:

EXPANDING PrEP OUTREACH IN UGANDA



Outcome: By the end of August 2024, permission was given by the relevant district health teams to expand PrEP outreach sites across three target districts in Uganda: Soroti, Kamuli, and Tororo. This includes 14 sites at an estimated reach of 10,000 people per year.



Contribution: The U4P coalition's efforts were instrumental in advancing PrEP outreach in Uganda. The comprehensive approach involved mapping facilities that provide antiretroviral therapy (ART) and PrEP, identifying eligible health facilities as outreach locations or opportunities for accreditation in order to allow facilities to offer PrEP based on demand, ART availability, and human resources. The activity involved coalition partners collaborating with district leadership and regional implementing partners to map health facilities in various districts. The mapping exercise took place in Soroti, Tororo, and Kamuli. Advocates from HEPS Uganda, ICWEA, ABC Uganda, NAFOPHANU, UNYPA, and AWAC (each of whom are U4P coalition members) actively engaged in lobbying meetings with district health teams to ensure outreach activities were integrated into facility work plans. The next steps involved finalising the accreditation process for six health facilities. This involved the AIDS Information Center (AIC), as the regional implementing partner for Soroti District, making a commitment to finalize the accreditation process for six health facilities.



Significance: This expansion of PrEP outreach sites is vital for Uganda's HIV prevention efforts. It directly addresses the pressing need for increased access to PrEP, a vital tool for reducing HIV infections. By decentralising PrEP services, life-saving prevention methods are being brought closer to those who need them most. This development aligns with Uganda's recently released Technical Guidance on PrEP for Persons at Substantial Risk of HIV Infection (2022). It's a significant step towards scaling up PrEP services nationwide, potentially serving as a blueprint for other districts to follow. The approach of engaging local leadership is particularly noteworthy. It fosters a sense of ownership at the district level, crucial for the programme's long-term sustainability. Leveraging changes in attitudes at the national level on the subject of HIV and the rights of key-populations is difficult in the current context. The coalition finds that focusing on specific districts has become an effective strategy for observing and achieving incremental, positive changes for key populations.

Next steps: Building on the progress made, the coalition, in collaboration with regional partners and district health teams, has committed to further increasing the number of PrEP outreach sites in Soroti, Kamuli, and Tororo districts. The coalition will continue to engage in meetings with key stakeholders to lobby for the inclusion of outreach activities in facility work plans, facilitate health worker mobility to outreach sites, and forecast adequate supplies.

TIMELINE OF OUTCOME STORY

2023



April
Launch of the U4P partnership in Uganda



September
PESTLE analysis completed



December
Uganda's [HIV Prevention and Accountability Report](#) showcased at the ICASA conference

2024



January
Launch of [HIV Prevention and Accountability](#) report
The PrEP mapping tool is developed and a consultant is recruited. The mapping was used to identify facilities offering PrEP and those not offering PrEP



March
Series of meetings at district-level to encourage stakeholder buy-in to the PrEP mapping exercise. Coalition members met with District Health Officers and District Health teams in charge of facilities. Political and other technical stakeholders were introduced the mapping activity to garner support and were also interviewed



April
Completion of facility mapping in all three districts. Generation of report with recommendations focusing on the readiness and availability of PrEP services in healthcare facilities in Eastern Uganda



May
Initiation of lobbying meetings with key stakeholders



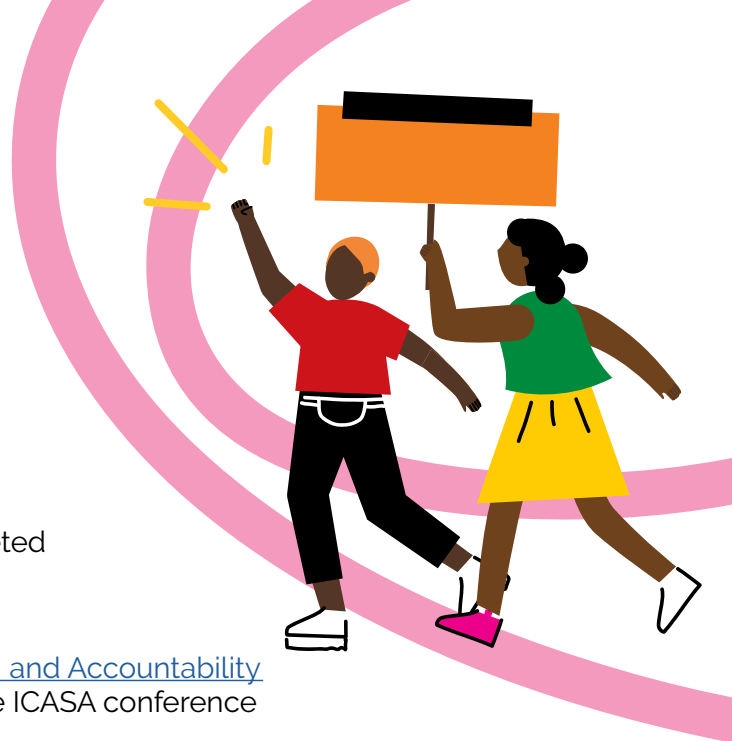
June
Continuing with health worker capacity building (for government workers) focusing on PrEP. A total of 179 health workers participated in capacity building on PrEP



July
Meeting with the Office of the First Lady to discuss PrEP availability and HIV prevention services



September
Increase in number of PrEP outreach sites across three target districts of Soroti, Kamuli, and Tororo



PROMISING PRACTICES

- **Using data and evidence** is an effective strategy to strengthen the impact of advocacy initiatives and helped identify service gaps and where interventions are needed. In Uganda, the HIV Prevention and Accountability Report helped the coalition highlight HIV treatment needs of underrepresented communities such as LGBTQ+ individuals and sex workers, to service providers. This has resulted in improved service delivery.
- **Using established networks to support ongoing advocacy activities enhances the sustainability** of these efforts. The U4P coalition clearly aligned with existing civil society organisation forums and national HIV programmes ensuring that the programme's activities were integrated into broader strategies. This looks set to help with maintaining momentum beyond the project's lifespan.

KEY LESSONS LEARNT

- **Using detailed advocacy strategies and workplans helped** the U4P coalition partners in Uganda to navigate their advocacy engagements, identify influential HIV prevention spaces and ensure they approached the right decision-makers at the right time.
- **Tailored advocacy messaging is more effective:** the Ugandan coalition partners used the country's PESTLE and stakeholder analysis to create unified advocacy messages that resonated with their target audiences and desired action.

Sources:

The U4P coalition in Uganda has done incredible work in providing data for this profile, as identified from the following sources:

- Uganda U4P Monthly MEL Meeting Tracker
- U4P Quarterly Narrative Report - Uganda
- Uganda Coalition Accountability Strategy
- Uganda HIV Prevention and Accountability report
- Uganda PESTLE analysis
- U4P advocacy log
- Mid-term review of U4P, conducted by Southern Hemisphere, 2024

This profile was written by Elena Mancebo Masa, Zimingonaphakade Sigenu and Dena Lomofsky on behalf of Southern Hemisphere Consultants, with editorial input from Casey Davison O'Brien, Leora Pillay and Libby van Zee of Frontline AIDS, Pasquine Ogunsanya and Elizabeth Kihika from AMS, Raymond Kwesiga from NAFOPHANU. Design by Jaywalk Design for Change.

