Creating a Community of Champions  Inspiring Young People  Fostering Innovation
EMPOWERING LIVES OF YOUNG PEOPLE
2018 will be a special year when we commemorate our 25th anniversary. In 25 years of its existence, the organization has made outstanding contributions to improving the health and well-being of young people in Uganda.

Whereas the organization started as Straight Talk newspaper launched in October 1993 funded by UNICEF targeting young people aged 13-19 years, the newspaper generated interest among young adolescents and adults such as teachers and parents, requiring STF to innovate interventions targeting significant adults in the lives of young people. In 1998, Straight Talk was first produced to target younger adolescents aged 10-14 years. In 1999, radio programs in English commenced and Ugandan local languages in 2000. Work on 4 Ugandan local language newspapers commenced in 1997. Tree planting activities began in 2003. In 2004, the first youth center was opened in Ondiri followed by Kupsan Youth Center in 2007. Adjumani, Moroto and Nebwya followed in 2009. Additionally, in 2009, STF began work on disability and special needs.

In its journey, the organization has continuously adapted to the changing context of young people’s lives especially in health, poverty and associated social problems in Uganda. The country is considered a young nation with 58% of its population under the age of 17 years. Young people face socio-economic challenges characteristic of developing countries namely unemployment, poverty, HIV/AIDS, Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH).

Further to this, limited access to services makes choices for health less accessible for the young people. Adolescent girls specifically face obstacles, including early marriage and childbearing that hinder their ability to make healthy transitions into adulthood, often times with tragic consequences. Complications during pregnancy or childbearing are the leading causes of death for girls 15 to 19 years in many developing countries like Uganda.

In its programming, STF has continuously innovated programs to enable the organization keep ahead of these emerging challenges faced by young people. Examples of these include adopting advancements in technology, enhancing the organization’s capacity by working across various sectors such as health, education, livelihoods, environment all of which are crucial in programming for young people.

Looking ahead, we are confident that the organization’s work will continue to be relevant in the future. To commemorate our 25th birthday, we would like to reaffirm STF’s commitment in working with and supporting young people in Uganda to improve their sexual and reproductive health and well-being.
Vision
A world in which young people have access to information and services to enable them live healthy and productive lives.

Mission
To improve the sexual and reproductive health and wellbeing of young people through evidence based advocacy, communication and youth friendly service delivery.

STF Values:

Teamwork:
We value the synergy brought by team work. As a principle, we work in teams; encourage young people to work in teams and/or groups to ensure that they build the necessary support structures to sustain healthy lifestyles. We seek to broaden our collaborations across sectors as a means of increasing efficacy of our work and services.

Excellence:
STF Values high quality standards in the work that it does. We ensure that our work embeds creativity and innovation. We value the knowledge of others and seek to continually improve in our service delivery through consultation and benchmarking against good practice.

Commitment:
Our existence is to serve young people. We seek to understand their social, economic and health challenges, and commit to the development of sustainable solutions to ensure that they enjoy the fullness of life.

Integrity:
STF ensures it undertakes its obligations with transparency so as to effectively fulfill the purpose of its work while inspiring confidence and trust of others. STF work is aligned with its beliefs in accountability, transparency and honesty.

Resilience:
We undertake our work with resilience and perseverance recognizing that ensuring the wellbeing of young people is challenging and yet a significant factor to their productivity. STF is adaptable to the changing environment of young people in Uganda.
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**LIST OF ACRONYMS**

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<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ABH</td>
<td>Advocacy for Better Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIDS</td>
<td>Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANC</td>
<td>Antenatal Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASRH</td>
<td>Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health (ASRH)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AVS</td>
<td>Adolescent Youth Services (AYFS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CBOs</td>
<td>Community Based Organizations (CBOs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDÖ</td>
<td>Community Development Officer (CDÖ)</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHV</td>
<td>Community Health Volunteer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEÖ</td>
<td>District Education Officer (DEÖ)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DHIS</td>
<td>District Health Information System (DHIS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DLG</td>
<td>District Local Government (DLG)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FGÖs</td>
<td>Focus Group Discussions (FGÖs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FGM</td>
<td>Female genital Mutilation (FGM)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FP</td>
<td>Family Planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GBV</td>
<td>Gender Based Violence (GBV)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NMS</td>
<td>National Medical Stores (NMS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAC</td>
<td>Scholarship Advisory Committee (SAC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>SMGs</td>
<td>School Management Committees</td>
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<tr>
<td>SMEs</td>
<td>Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)</td>
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<tr>
<td>SRH</td>
<td>Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSC</td>
<td>Scholarship Selection Committee (SSC)</td>
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<td>TDLO</td>
<td>United States Department of Labor (TDLO)</td>
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<tr>
<td>VAC</td>
<td>Violence Against Children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YEM</td>
<td>Youth Enterprise Model</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YPP</td>
<td>Youth Peer Provider</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Welcome to the Straight Talk Foundation Annual Report which presents our main achievements from January December 2017. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to thank all our partners and well-wishers for their generous support towards Straight Talk Foundation.

Straight Talk Foundation continues to make a distinctive contribution to improving the health and wellbeing of young people in Uganda through its innovative programs and services. I believe the future of the organization’s success will be defined in part by our ability to contribute to the innovations to address some of the most daunting challenges faced by young people in Uganda. This has been evidenced by some of the initiatives and new endeavors the organization embarked on in the recent years such as work with the private sector and addressing multi dimensional challenges faced by young people in the health and education sector.

The Board of STF has continued to support and provide appropriate guidance to Management in steering the organization in the right path through our dedicated Board Committees and direct engagement with management. We have been keen to ensure that the organization has very sound governance mechanisms. We continue to model and observe good governance as we shape our Board with the right people to improve our effectiveness in supporting this great organization.

Looking ahead, Straight Talk Foundation shall commemorate 25 years of existence in October 2018. We are excited about this important milestone and trust you too shall celebrate with us this important achievement. As an organization, our future looks bright and would like to emphasize that the organization’s work among young people in Uganda is still meaningful and continues to impact and change the lives of adolescents and young people.

In closing, on behalf of the Board of Directors, we are grateful to all our partners and well wishers for their generous support towards Straight Talk Foundation. I would like to thank all staff for their ongoing vision, energy, innovation and commitment. I also thank my Board colleagues for their own passion in helping to shape a brighter future for Straight Talk Foundation.

We look forward to a successful year ahead.
Robby Muhumuza, Board Chair
This has been a very successful year for Straight Talk Foundation. The organization has expanded significantly over the last twelve months and we have made a number of particularly notable achievements.

Major projects that we recently embarked on are progressing very satisfactorily and many new opportunities are opening up for us. These include the growing program portfolio in Karamoja and Eastern Uganda that address adolescent health and education.

At STF, we strive to place young people at the center of all we do. We are relentless about the health and wellbeing of each young person we serve. Looking ahead; we have developed a five year Strategic Plan to guide our focus for the 2018 - 2022 period. We anticipate that the reflections documented in this plan will guide the organisation’s response to the complex and interrelated issues facing young people in Uganda.

These include:

• Empowering young people through innovative communication approaches to access quality information and youth friendly services,
• Improving knowledge management for evidence based youth programming, learning and accountability,
• Empowering young people to manage natural resources and enterprises for a sustainable well-being,
• Expanding STF capacity to deliver programs for young people.

The talent and experience of the teams we have in place across the organization coupled with the vision of our Board support our success in being a responsive and responsible NGO. I believe strong and effective governance leads to better decisions and that effective Board oversight is vital to our success. For this, we are grateful for the Board’s continued support and guidance.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our employees who work so diligently to serve our clients. They are working to exceed our clients’ expectations, committed to ensuring each young person who comes into contact with STF exceeds their expectations. We also thank our partners for their continued support and trust.

I believe it has been a great year. We are satisfied with the continuing growth of our organisation and are looking forward enthusiastically to the year ahead.

Susan Ajok, Executive Director
About Straight Talk Foundation

Straight Talk Foundation (STF) is a health communication Ugandan NGO that was registered in 1997. It grew out of the teen newspaper Straight Talk launched in October 1993 with funding support from Unicef; targeting young people aged 15-19 years. The initial aim of Straight Talk was to influence adolescents to delay sex or practice safer sex if sexually active. While directed at adolescents, it also sought to help influential adults in adolescents’ lives.

In the past 25 years of its existence, STF has grown considerably into an organization, serving various categories of young people. To date STF has designed programs to respond to specific populations needs for health and development. Current STF programs focus on sexual and reproductive health, education, gender and gender based violence, climate change, agriculture, livelihoods, youth friendly service delivery and research.

STF works with the public sector through at least three government ministries: Ministry of Education and Sports, Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development and the Ministry of Health. At district level, STF collaborates with the key government departments aligned to these ministries. STF is member to several working groups in government sectors such as maternal health, adolescent health, youth and gender. Nationwide; STF has thriving relationships with over 2500 civil society organizations including networks.

Straight Talk Foundation uses various mass media platforms to enhance communication among adolescents and their gatekeepers in communities. The core goals of STF programs are to promote social behaviour change and to support communication for development. The initiatives of STF give individuals access to information and an opportunity to voice their experiences, views and opinions which can influence the decisions that impact their lives.

Legal advisors

Auditors:

Communications House, Plot 1 Colville Street, P. O Box 22490, Kampala, Uganda, Tel: +256 414 232 733

Kalamu House, Plot 1B Kira Road Kampala, Uganda Tel: +256 312 305 800
Straight Talk Foundation Numbers

**Social Media**
- 4,778 followers on Straight Talk Foundation Facebook Page
- 9,200 followers on Twitter - @STF Uganda
- 26,000 followers on Youth Enterprise Model Page
- 4,536 users of STF toll free SMS (6300)

**Print materials**
- 5 issues of Young Talk
- 3 issues of Straight Talk
- 6,251 letters to Young Talk
- 3,990 letters to Straight Talk

**Radio Programs**
- 282 Prerecorded radio shows
- 11 Live radio shows
- 40 Junior Journalist programs
- 98 Resource persons hosted on radio

**Youth friendly SRH service delivery**
- 8,130 served through Edutainment services
- 24,709 provided with contraceptive services
- 11,782 received STI treatment
- 7,606 screened for cervical cancer

**Outreach and Training**
- 450 GUSO trained peer educators in 2 districts
- 480 YEM trained peer educators in 2 districts
- 504 in school Ni Yetu Peer educators trained in 2 districts
- 757 Senior men/women teachers trained on SRH in 20 districts
- 607 health workers trained on ASRH service delivery in 17 districts
- 507 safe spaces supported in 757 schools benefiting 36,504 girls in 17 districts
- 5,448 parents reached through SRH engagement in 17 districts
- 707 Male Action Group members supported in 17 districts
- 40 Cultural leaders supported in 2 districts work on ending child marriages
National pictorial:

Day of the African Child: STF participated in the commemoration of the Day of the African Child held in Iganga District.

World AIDS Day 1st December 2017
STF participated in the national World AIDS Day commemorative event that took place in Kole District.

Donor visits: Irish Aid staff visited STF sites in Karamoja. They were joined by STF staff from Moroto and Kampala. STF Gulu Youth Center was visited by Danida to establish STF progress in engagement with young people through its youth friendly services.

Board Engagement; The STF Board of Directors visited Karamoja to appreciate the organization’s programs through first hand experience.

STF Director Ms Ajok, recognized on International Women’s day, 2017 with a Golden Jubilee Medal.

STF commemorating Menstrual Hygiene Day presided over by the State Minister for Higher Education, Honorable John Chrysostom Muyingo.

International Youth Day:
STF participated in the International Youth Day commemorations that took place in Bundibugyo district. During the event themed, “Youth for Peace Building” STF showcased its work in an exhibition of its IEC materials.
STF Program Portfolio

In 2017, STF implemented the following programs:

Communication programs

Social and behavior change communication is central and important to all STF programs. An important role played by STF communication programs is provision of accurate information to individuals and to serve as a platform for young people to voice their experiences, views and opinions so as to influence the decisions that impact their lives. This is specifically achieved through various channels and platforms utilised synergistically by STF (Interpersonal communication, social media, print and electronic media).

Radio:

In 2017, STF utilised radio as a platform for young people to engage with important adults in their lives. The shows featured 98 resource persons who include; health workers, teachers, head teachers, local government leaders among others. The pre-recorded shows were conducted in Luganda, English, Lusoga, Madi and Kakwa.

Radio Broadcast summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Radio Show /Language</th>
<th>Broadcast</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Donor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-recorded radio show in English</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
<td>UNFPA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-recorded radio show in Luganda</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
<td>UNFPA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twogere Lwaatu in Lusoga</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
<td>Rutgers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kulia’na Tayi Gbonga Gbonga in Kakwa</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
<td>Segal Family Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ta’joka gbo in Madi</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
<td>Erik E. and Edith H. Bergstrom Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live Talk Show in Ngakarimojong by JJs</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Monthly</td>
<td>Irish Aid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live Talk show in English</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>For one month</td>
<td>UNFPA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live Talk show in Luganda</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>For one Month</td>
<td>UNFPA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Print:

STF print work was supported by Unicef and Save the Children in 2017.

Young Talk newspapers: 5 issues of Young Talk were produced. The topics addressed were; My Changing Body, Beautiful Culture and Staying Safe During Holidays, Managing Adolescence Safely and STI prevention. A total of 167,000 copies were distributed to Unicef supported primary schools in the districts of Kaabong, Kotido, Abim, Amudat, Nakapiripirit, Moroto, Napak, Adjumani, Kamuli, Iganga and Arua; while a total of 15,000 copies were distributed to 81 primary schools supported by Save the Children in Wakiso district.

A key activity to promote readership of Young Talk was conducting Reading Tents in 12 primary schools in Namayumba and Masulita, Wakiso district. This activities supported learners in making better use of Young Talk newsletters through face to face discussions.

Straight Talk newspapers:

3 issues of Straight Talk with a print run of 167,000 copies were produced with the funding support of Unicef. The topics addressed included; Ending teenage pregnancy, Sexual harassment and saying no to drug abuse.
Consulting for media:
Collaboration with Infectious Diseases Institute: STF provided technical support to the Infectious Diseases Institute (IDI) in the development of 30 health tips on HIV, Cancer and Nutrition for the Call for Life project. The health tips were translated in two Ugandan languages (Luganda and Runyankore).

E Content development:
STF concluded its assignment with Unicef Uganda to develop and customize E-Content for the Ministry of Health intended for use by its partners. The primary target groups for the customized content were new and expectant mothers, male caretakers, Village Health Teams, teenage mothers and HIV positive expectant mothers. To gain insights into the effectiveness of this platform, STF assessed the establishment of access, utilisation, sufficiency and adequacy of the messages as well as documentation of success stories related to their utilisation.

Findings from the assessment indicate that:
• The strategy was effective as 79% of the clients had received information on pregnancy, child birth or child care. Furthermore, among those that received the messages 94% found the information useful. The messages fostered action related to the messages amongst 87.1% of the beneficiaries.
• Male involvement in maternal health is crucial given their ownership of registered mobile phones and direct influence on spouse access to messages.

• The assessment recommended that the initiative considers establishing small client support groups with at least one phone registered and messages sent to the group as this is anticipated to foster dialogue among members.
• The mobile strategy is convenient, relevant and cost effective as it ensures wide coverage of relevant information among beneficiaries.
• The strategy can be accommodated within any program structure to make information accessible.
Launched in 2014, the Red Card campaign to discourage underage consumption of alcohol focuses on raising awareness about its dangers among young people. To date, the campaign has been rolled out in 8 districts. The current phase of the project focuses on consolidation of previous achievements by undertaking high level advocacy. In 2017, STF undertook the following:

Petitioning the Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda:
STF convened 50 students and pupils to present to the Speaker of Parliament a petition against underage alcohol consumption. Meeting with the Speaker; Honorable Rebecca Alitwala Kadaga, the students in their petition called for:
- The use of national identity cards to minimize the sale of alcohol to minors.
- Banning of alcohol sachets.
- Sensitization of opinion leaders about liquor regulations so as to gain their support in the control of non-compliance.

The Speaker of Parliament recognized underage consumption of alcohol as a challenge in the country and pledged to support STF in its endeavors by serving as a Red Card Ambassador. Following this engagement; the petition was presented on the floor of parliament intended to pave way for discussion of a bill to regulate alcohol use in Uganda.

District level advocacy: 3 meetings were undertaken with key actors in Gulu, Soroti and Kabale districts. The meetings sought to influence district policy makers and stakeholders to formulate and implement by-laws and regulations on underage alcohol consumption with an emphasis on cheap, illicit alcohol (unregulated sachet spirits). A key achievement during this phase was securing commitment from different actors towards formulating policies to reduce underage alcohol consumption.
Advocacy for Better Health (ABH)

This initiative provides Ugandans with skills, tools and systems to effectively advocate for accessible and high quality health services. Specifically, it works to enhance capacity, mobilise, motivate and empower citizens and civil society organizations to become effective advocates for health and social change and to catalyse policy action and accountability. This project is implemented by STF with support from PATH/USAID in the districts of Bugiri, Busia and Namutumba in Eastern Uganda. In 2017, STF undertook the following activities:

• **Orientation of HUMCs**: 3 orientation meetings were conducted to induct HUMCs on the project priorities (HIV/TB and FP) and various tools such as the 90:90:90 tool kit and service delivery tracking tools.

• **Support to district based civil society organizations**: STF supported and facilitated thirty two (32) CBOs to provide technical support in monitoring and addressing various community social and health service challenges through advocacy forums. In other areas, the 32 CBOs were supported to undertake tracking/monitoring visits to health facilities to identify HIV/TB FP service delivery gaps related to commodity stock outs and HRH.

**District Stakeholders meetings**: STF participated in district stakeholder forums to ensure that advocacy issues were presented to the DHO. Among the commitments made by local government were intensifying spot check and supervision of health workers and train/orient the HUMCs on their roles and responsibilities.

**STF Board Training in governance**: With the technical support of Initiatives Inc., STF Board of Directors with management participated in a one day training on governance. The training objectives were to:

- Facilitate an understanding of board governance and corporate board governance among the STF Board
- Explore issues of sustainability of an organization and Board contribution to sustainability.

**Key project achievements**: As a result of citizen vigilance, there has been decreased health worker absenteeism from duty. As a demonstration of local government commitment to address challenges affecting service delivery, Bugiri district leadership has set up a district joint supportive supervision team with the participation of implementing partners.

Dr Sabrina Kitaka speaking on behalf of the STF Board during the training
The Irish Aid Bursary Program:

The program funded by Embassy of Ireland, seeks to support up to 225 young people from Karamoja annually in pursuing Post Primary, Vocational and University education. The program addresses poor access to, retention as well as quality education and training. The program targets the seven districts of Abim, Kotido Kaabong, Moroto, Nakapiritprit, Amudat and Napak by providing learners with school fees, basic requirements, mentoring, adolescent sexual and reproductive health information, life skills and HIV/AIDS information, career guidance and counselling, and livelihoods skills to economically disadvantaged but bright students. Overall the program ensures that learners have access to high-quality education to enable them achieve their academic and personal goals.

Among other support activities, the program engages with an Alumni network; undertakes mentorship and provides career guidance workshops during the school terms and holidays, face to face counselling at the STF Moroto center, study tours and parents’ dialogues.

The program is supported by a Karamoja based Scholarship Advisory Committee (SAC) and Scholarship Selection Committee (SSC), with the guidance of the District Education Officers (DEOs) in the Karamoja sub region. To-date, there are 648 students at secondary, 100 students at tertiary for either Certificate or Diploma and 149 students at the University. Altogether, there are 897 students, hosted in over 40 learning institutions within and outside Karamoja.

Enrolment and retention: In 2017, the majority of the scholarship beneficiaries were candidates. A total of 197 (30%) and 133 (21%) were in senior four and six respectively. All the candidates, undertook ‘O’ and ‘A’ level examinations.

I am Munyes Michael the 5th and last born in a family of five (3 girls and 2 boys) and I am the most educated in the family. Life was really challenging before joining High school. I repeated Primary Leaving Examination (PLE) for three consecutive years; 2004, 2005 and 2006. Although, I obtained good grades, the family was unable to send me to secondary school. In the course of my primary education, my old mother used to burn charcoal to provide scholastic materials. I also worked for people by fetching water, collecting firewood in return for some small payment. My life has changed from the time I secured the Irish Aid scholarship. I lacked nothing as my school fees were paid. I used to receive all scholastic materials. At the university, we were given pocket money, transport to and from home, accommodation paid for. Am now working with Land and Equity Movement Uganda (LEMU), Moroto as a Community Facilitator as well as acting Manager. I sincerely extend my appreciation to Irish Aid for the job well done, because, without the bursary Program, I would not be what I am today. 

Bursary Alumnus, BA Business Studies, Kyambogo University.
Get Up Speak Out (GUSO):

The Get Up Speak Out (GUSO) initiative is a project of the SRHR Alliance implemented with support from Rutgers in partnership with 7 like-minded organizations in Uganda. The project targets young people aged 10-24 years in 4 districts namely; Iganga, Bugiri, Mayuge and Jinja in Eastern Uganda and delivers three (3) key components; SRH information, education and service linkages. During the 2017 reporting period, STF undertook the following:

- **Establishment of structures**: These were established at district, community and at school levels. The district coordination committee comprises of 15 district heads of department and leaders to provide technical support. At school level, 220 teachers were identified and trained as patrons/matrons from 60 schools supported by 600 sustainability team members from 40 schools. These structures provide technical support, ownership and sustainability at district, community and school level. Further still, 272 young people were identified and trained in peer education approaches.

- **Strengthening utilization of comprehensive SRHR information and Education**: Through capacity building, STF supported 450 educators (220 teachers and 230 young people). The teachers provided sexuality education to 4,800 young people in schools through learning group sessions. Both teachers, peer educators and youth advocates have provided sexuality information to 28,154 young people using different approaches/strategies like peer to peer sessions, health talks (assembly messages), dialogue meetings, parents-pupils dialogue, poems, debates, MDDs, guidance and counselling.

- **SRHR Service linkages**: STF supported 40 schools to visit 8 Health facilities to enable young people acquaint themselves with health center services and procedures through advocacy. Working with 12 health workers, 4,139 young people are reported to have received services for various SRH related challenges.

- **Engagement with parents**: STF supported schools to conduct 61 Parents – Pupils’ dialogues to promote child to parent communication, including discussing harmful gender norms in communities and promotion of SRHR interventions in schools. A total of 5,448 (3200 parents and 2123 pupils) participated in the dialogue meetings.

- **Establishment of ICT centre**: STF Bugiri field office was equipped with ICT infrastructure to strengthen the mentorship component of the program targeting teachers and peer educators so as to ensure sustainability of program results through improved access to SRH information.

- **Radio programs**: STF collected content from 30 primary schools working closely with Junior Journalists. STF interacted with 940 people (904 pupils during the FGDs, 24 Teachers and 12 Nurses and midwives). A total of 117 pupils were interviewed (64 female and 53 male). In total, 52 programs were produced with 166 broadcasts on three radio stations.
This is a program funded by KOICA with technical support from UNFPA implemented by STF in 17 districts namely, Lamwo, Gulu, Abim, Amudat, Amuria, Bududa, Butaleja, Iganga, Kaabong, Kapchorwa, Katakwi, Kotido, Mayuge, Moroto, Nakapiripirit and Napak. The multi sectoral initiative focuses on efforts to increase access and utilization of age appropriate SRHR information and services by adolescent girls in schools and health facilities.

The following interventions were implemented during 2017 period:

• **Support to District local governments:** This was undertaken to enable them undertake supervision visits to 222 schools (189 primary and 33 secondary) across 3 districts in eastern Uganda. Findings from the supervision indicate that 187 (99%) primary schools and 32 (97%) secondary schools had developed road maps to support the changing lives of adolescent girls and boys through continuous engagements with stakeholders including parents, local council leaders, SMCs and School Boards.

• **Training of teachers on SRH information and service provision:** STF undertook capacity building of 604 senior women and 153 men teachers on AYSRH in 14 districts from 757 schools (667 primary and 90 secondary schools). The trained teachers continue to support referral for youth friendly SRH services at health facilities especially for girls, supervise safe spaces at schools, provide mentorship to school-based peer educators.

• **Maintenance of safe spaces for AYSRHR:** 745 schools were supported to establish functional safe spaces benefiting a total of 36,504 girls. Trained teachers oversee the use of spaces through undertaking activities such as counselling, referrals for AYSRH services and follow up with the health facilities for complete referrals. As a result, 8,748 students were referred to health facilities for services.

• **Training of health workers in the provision of SRHR adolescent and youth friendly services:** A total of 17 refresher trainings targeting 507 (183 male and 324 female) health workers were conducted across the 17 districts. This strengthened health workers’ skills to support youth friendly service delivery, family planning, data and quality management, value clarification and attitude transformation.

• **Supporting quality improvement.** STF worked with district teams to conduct on going AYSRH service quality evaluation and mentorship among 152 health
facilities through review of data collection tools such as HMIS forms, ANC, HCT client books and adolescent youth friendly registers. These QI meetings provided an opportunity for health facility staff to regularly analyze quality indicators for AYSRH services provided at each health facility, identify gaps and generate areas of improvement of AYSRH service delivery.

**Support to Male Action Groups:** These were undertaken in Eastern Uganda and Karamoja districts with a view to empower men to dialogue and engage communities prevent Early Child Marriage (ECM) and teenage pregnancy. This activity targeted 770 members from 140 Men Action Groups (MAGs).

**Work with cultural institutions:** 40 cultural representatives were supported to conduct dialogues to address early child marriages in Lamwo and Gulu districts. They continued to conduct further engagement through team collaboration in each district.

**Support to school-based youth networks:** These were undertaken in 14 schools in Gulu and Lamwo to engage young people in mobilization activities to reach peers through peer networks with SRH and HIV and AIDS information. The networks further made complete referrals of adolescent girls (10-19) to SRH services. 3,172 young people in schools (790 males, 2,382 females) were reached with SRHR messages in the two districts of Gulu 1,227 (481 males, 746 females) and Lamwo 1951 (309 males, 1636 females).

**Support to 40 out-of-school peer educators:** This was implemented in Gulu and Lamwo reaching 2,779 peers (655 males, 2,124 females) through peer education to support knowledge sharing and referrals to increase demand for AYFS.

**Keeping girls in school:**
An operational research on menstrual hygiene was conducted. Findings showed that the provision of menstrual supplies reduced related absenteeism from school in the Better Life for Girls project sites. This followed the distribution of reusable sanitary towels to 52,920 girls of menstruating age from 756 beneficiary schools (670 primary, 86 secondary) in 14 districts in 2016. The program anticipated that by end of 2017, 95% of girls using reusable pads would report no menstrual related absenteeism.

Findings indicated 85% reported they had not been absent from school for lack of menstrual supplies. The program increased beneficiary access to sustainable menstrual supplies resulting in improved school attendance. Overall this research concluded that ensuring access to sustainable menstrual supplies was a cost effective way of reducing girls’ menstruation related absenteeism in schools.
The Youth Enterprise Model:
This collaboration between STF and UNFPA with funding support from Pakard Foundation and is now in its second phase. The project is delivered in partnership with Reproductive Health Uganda in the districts of Kampala and Mubende. The Youth Enterprise Model project supports increased access to SRH information and services among young people in Vocational Training Institutions and those involved in youth enterprises by linking youth economic activation and labor skills development with SRH health information and services.

In 2017; the following interventions were supported:

- **Work with peer educators:** 480 peer educators drawn from 23 VTIs and 50 SMEs were supported to operate a network for the delivery of information and services to peers reaching a total of 148,964 young people with SRH information. Working with STF, the peer educators undertook an integrated outreach program to work sites and VTIs through Reproductive Health Uganda, reaching 21,748 people through service outreaches in Kampala and Mubende. Here is Elvin’s story as a peer educator.

  “At my school, all of us 10 peer educators are doing business, thanks to Straight Talk facilitators who encouraged us that no matter the amount of money, we had to do something,” said Elvin, the peer leader from Kizibawo Vocational Training Institute in Mubende district.

- **Provision of information:** A key pillar of the project is the use of a multimedia combining SMS; social and electronic media. 4,536 users are subscribed to STF’s toll free 6300 SMS platform. Working through radio; STF held 213 prerecorded and 11 live talk shows in Luganda and English on 3 radio stations; discussing entrepreneurship, personal finances and SRH. 26,724 young people utilized the YEM Facebook page to access SRH and YFS information from 100 posts made by STF on various business and health topics.

- **Collaboration with financial institutions:** During this period, 39 staff from 4 financial institutions were trained (17 male and 22 female) . These included Post Bank, Stanbic Bank and Bagezza SACCO in Mubende and Pride Micro Finance in Kampala. FINCA MDI continued to work with young people on financial literacy through outreaches.

- **Advocacy among local government and leaders:** 2 advocacy meetings took place in Kampala and Mubende districts reaching 65 district leaders and technical personnel. The purpose of these meetings were to solicit their support in including young people in business as a special target in youth programming.

- **Capacity building of service providers:** 50 health workers (8 male and 42 female) from 26 health facilities in Kampala and Mubende were trained in YFS. 82 (49 females and 33 males) Community Development Officers (CDOs) and youth officers from 10 sub counties in Mubende and the 5 divisions of Kampala were trained in YFS provision including its integration in young people’s business environments.

The project also recorded 253 new businesses started by young people, 149 new bank accounts opened. All the 23 vocational training institutes did not report any girls missing school due to pregnancy and there was a general increase in the enrollment of girls.
**Enhancing youth leadership through Straight Talk clubs:**

STF has been collaborating with DUF to implement the last phase of the Youth Leader Exchange program. This was a result of the Senior Straight Talkers Model, a partnership between Ungdomsringen and STF. In 2017, this collaboration focused on building on earlier successes in empowering ST clubs to manage themselves sustainably. STF held a Club Seminar for patrons, students and volunteer Senior Straight Talkers from 16 schools. The seminar addressed SRH information needs on goal setting, volunteerism, financial leadership and corruption prevention, budgeting and accounting. Further to this, STF conducted club trainings for 2 schools in club development to strengthen the role of Straight Talk clubs in delivering SRH information.

**Men Engage Uganda Network:**

STF currently serves as the secretariat for the Men Engage Network in Uganda. The network consists of over 30 civil society organizations, community-based organizations and groups, not-for-profit, other non-governmental organizations, research and learning institutions and individuals interested in working with men and boys to promote gender equality in Uganda.

As the network’s secretariat, the role of STF is grants management and coordinating the implementation of the network’s annual work plan. With support from SIDA Zambia through Sonke Gender Justice, the network rolled out activities under three campaigns.

- **Engaging men and boys to stop HIV/AIDS transmission.** In this campaign, the network reached and tested 1,438 men and boys for HIV while 840 received messages on HIV and GBV prevention. In Kibuku and Tirinyi, 82 members of the male Action groups (75 men and 7 women) were trained on the 90:90:90 call.

- **Engaging men and boys to end child marriages,** 325 community members, 1,116 young people in schools with 100 of their teachers were reached. The campaign was further extended on radio in Jinja, Iganga and Kampala.

- **Engaging 370 men and boys through community dialogues to reduce GBV.**

The network engaged in other advocacy within Uganda and outside. These include; a fatherhood campaign-highlighting the role of fathers as care givers and engaging men and boys in ending Female Genital Mutilation.
Adolescent Youth Empowerment and Development Initiative (AYEDI):

In 2014, World Education Inc.’s Bantwana Initiative entered a collaboration with STF, to implement the “Adolescent Youth Empowerment and Development Initiative (AYEDI)” in Uganda. The project was implemented in the Gulu, Lira, Iganga, and Bugiri districts of Northern and Eastern Uganda.

The project provided youth with no or little formal education with functional literacy and numeracy skills; a Non-formal Education Trade Certificate program targeting youth interested in pursuing work in a specific trade; and enrolment in secondary school for primary school leavers. Additionally, youth were provided with training in entrepreneurship and agribusiness, linked to companies to start a micro franchise or micro enterprise, and/or linked to internships.

Overall 4,967 young people were recruited into clubs. As a result, there has been steady improvement in leadership, life skills, and occupation health and safety among the youth. Currently only 1% of the youth are still engaged in hazardous labour. Overall youth access to decent work has improved in the target districts. At least 60,000 indirect beneficiaries were reached through a range of activities, including the dissemination of occupational safety materials, links to existing Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLA) groups for caregivers, training of teachers in life skills and HIV prevention, and community mobilization activities conducted by youth.
Ni-Yetu Youth Empowerment Program:

This is a SRH project implemented with support from Plan International Uganda. Ni Yetu is implemented in districts of Tororo, Kamuli, Lira, Alebtong and Kampala. The aim of the program is to increase SRH knowledge, prevention of GBV and promotion of good governance among young people. In 2017, STF implemented the following:

- **Capacity building for health workers:** In collaboration with Ministry of Health (MoH) Reproductive Health Division, STF trained 100 (81 females and 19 males) Health workers from 54 health facilities in Lira, Alebtong, Kamuli, Tororo and Kampala. Training focused on adolescent health service delivery. Further to this, 1 health center per district was equipped with items for the youth friendly corner (IEC materials, audio equipment, furniture and indoor games).

- **Training of district based trainers:** STF spearheaded training of 19 (10 females & 9 males) district based trainers drawn from the departments of health, education and community development. The trainings equipped trainers with knowledge on the promotion of SRH, GBV modeling, Child Protection and Advocacy. It is anticipated that the trainers will cascade SRH trainings in their respective districts.

- **Support to peer educators:** A total of 504 in school peer educators from 126 schools were trained on the PIASCY model to facilitate access to health information, social protection among young people in school including the most marginalized. IEC materials produced served as support to peer education on topics such as SRH, GBV, menstrual hygiene management, growth and development, SRH for young people.

- **The use of multimedia communication:** 152 live radio programs and 150 spot messages were used to reach Out of School Youth with messages on SRHR and prevention of GBV. These were aired in the districts of Tororo, Kamuli, Lira and Alebtong. The topics discussed were: Menstrual Management, Effective Decision Making, Gender Based Violence – Negative Social Cultural issues promoting GBV, Condom use, STDs, STIs, HIV/AIDS, Early Marriage (Causes and Consequences), Couple Communication as a remedy to GBV, Healthy Relationships and family planning.

- **In other areas, STF utilized Communication for Development Foundation (CDFU)'s Hotline facility to provide information, counseling, referrals /follow-up on both SRH&R and GVB issues to callers from the Ni-Yetu districts. A total of 3086 (2044 males and 1042 females) benefited from the hot line. The calls focused on HIV& AIDS, Contraceptives and Pregnancy, Sexuality, Menstruation, Emotions, Rights, relationships, drugs, alcohol and substance abuse and gender based violence.
Prevention of violence against children—A multi-sectoral collaboration:

STF in collaboration with Global Health Uganda is implementing “Raising the Bar on the prevention of Violence against Children (VAC)” with funding support from the Oak Foundation to strengthen sector leadership and commitment to prevent VAC. This project supports the integration of violence prevention into the ASRH health sector through work with MoH and selected ASRH stakeholders through sharing and learning from VAC related evidence in Uganda. During this period, STF worked closely with MOH to bring together relevant stakeholders to share and learn from the evidence on violence against children in Uganda through a learning session. The learning session aimed at fostering commitment of the ASRH sector to integrate prevention of violence against children. A total of 32 stakeholders participated in learning sessions to jointly identify mechanisms to promote violence prevention as an agenda within the reproductive health sector.

STF – Glasgow University collaboration

STF and Glasgow University partnership in 2017 focused on work in schools. This was undertaken by a team of 8 Glasgow University students who supported STF work in three districts: Kapchorwa, Busia and Butaleja; where STF has running programs. The team’s work focused on raising awareness of on-going STF projects. 34 schools were reached with 5,254 young people taking active part in this visit. The table below highlights the breakdown of the students targeted per district visited.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kapchorwa (13 schools)</td>
<td>1315</td>
<td>888</td>
<td>2,203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Busia (12 schools)</td>
<td>995</td>
<td>515</td>
<td>1,510</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butaleja (9 schools)</td>
<td>869</td>
<td>672</td>
<td>1,541</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What We Learned

Our time spent in Uganda was extremely educational. We were impressed to learn about the necessary and beneficial work that Straight Talk is doing in Uganda and to see first-hand the effects of this in the schools we visited. We were especially interested to learn about the work that Better Life for Girls is doing, including giving out reusable sanitary pads, which can make the difference between a girl continuing her education instead of dropping out of school early.

Teaching in front of thousands of young people also enabled us to learn and develop several skills. Also, talking about sensitive and personal topics has developed our ability to approach sensitive conversations, which we will find incredibly useful in our future careers. Overall, we thoroughly enjoyed our experience with STF teaching in Uganda. We learned a great deal, developing many skills while doing so, and for this we are extremely grateful.

Andrew Watret, Glasgow Straight Talk (GST) Team Leader, 2017.
Raising Hope Project:

The current support from Unicef is towards a program to increase access to and utilization of adolescent health education information and services among adolescent girls aged 10-19. The project targets adolescents aged 10-19 in 11 districts of Abim, Amudat, Kaabong, Kotido, Moroto, Napak, Nakapiripirit, Iganga, Kamuli, Arua and Adjumani.

The project targets in school adolescents with knowledge on adolescent health and life skills. In 2017, teachers were provided with capacity building support in disseminating SRH/HIV information to in school adolescents. In other areas the project worked towards increasing access and utilization of integrated reproductive health services through health centres and outreaches to selected areas. Other program areas addressed include SRH, Menstrual Hygiene Management, growth and development, life skills, prevention of substance and tobacco abuse, teenage pregnancy and HIV.

- In 2017, 54,296 in-school adolescents were reached with life skills information to help them make informed choices through trainings, Straight Talk and Young Talk papers, meanwhile 71,302 out of school adolescents were empowered with information on adolescent health, care and support, financial literacy, and life skills to improve their livelihood potential and to enable them make informed life choices.
- A total of 1,289 senior men and women teachers were trained in communicating adolescent health messages. They have cascaded the training to other teaching and non-teaching staff.
- Health worker outreaches to schools increased access and utilization of adolescent health services by 40,178 adolescents.
- Supported and strengthened parents, caregivers and adolescent relationships through home, school and community partnership with 52,380 parents reached.
Youth friendly service delivery:

STF operates youth centers in the districts of Kitgum, Gulu, Nwoya and Adjumani. Offering a range of services, the STF youth centers provide both clinical (Gulu & Kitgum) and non-clinical services to various categories of young people through its static sites and targeted outreaches. STF centers collaborate with district local governments and likeminded organizations. Further to this the centers have a strong community engagement component designed to generate demand for services and enhance health seeking behavior among young people. STF youth friendly service provision is supported by PP Global, The Segal Family Foundation and the American Jewish World Service.

In 2017, the youth centers provided the following services.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Services provided</th>
<th>Gulu</th>
<th>Kitgum</th>
<th>Adjumani</th>
<th>Nwoya</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trainings / refresher trainings</td>
<td>06</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cancer screening</td>
<td>6,553</td>
<td>1,055</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>7,608</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family planning counselling</td>
<td>1,303</td>
<td>8,877</td>
<td>767</td>
<td>452</td>
<td>11,399</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STI diagnosis and treatment</td>
<td>4,984</td>
<td>6,798</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>11,782</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family planning methods</td>
<td>19,557</td>
<td>4,917</td>
<td>203</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>24,709</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capacity building and advocacy</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guidance, counselling and testing</td>
<td>16,043</td>
<td>8,877</td>
<td>10,260</td>
<td>666</td>
<td>35,846</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Condoms distributed</td>
<td>1,118</td>
<td>29,756</td>
<td>11,807</td>
<td>18,281</td>
<td>60,962</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Referrals</td>
<td>11,737</td>
<td>203</td>
<td>892</td>
<td>296</td>
<td>12,861</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community dialogues on FP</td>
<td>83,428</td>
<td>15,551</td>
<td>3,065</td>
<td>437</td>
<td>102,481</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engagements with leaders / parents</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>248</td>
<td>485</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender structured talks</td>
<td>31,529</td>
<td>486</td>
<td>11,700</td>
<td>1,951</td>
<td>45,666</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Condom education</td>
<td>59,144</td>
<td>26,014</td>
<td>717</td>
<td>342</td>
<td>86,217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edutainment</td>
<td>1,010</td>
<td>1,778</td>
<td>525</td>
<td>5,827</td>
<td>9,140</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Nwoya Youth Center “Increasing Youth Access to Sexual Reproductive Health Services and Information.”**

Support received by STF from AJWS was geared towards enhancing SRH service and information for young girls and women in Nwoya district through:

- **Strengthening work with students through schools:** Working with existing Straight Talk clubs, STF undertook visits to schools to hold SRH mentorship sessions. A total of 25 outreaches were conducted reaching 38 teachers with mentorship. The Straight Talk Clubs were supported to conduct peer led SRH discussions to increase access to SRH information and services reaching a total of 2,095 girls with SRH messages during the school outreaches; while 2,516 girls were reached through peer to peer led sessions.

- **Village health fairs for youth out of school:** Two fairs were conducted to increase access to SRH information and services. The fairs provided women and girls with SRH services, HIV/AIDS prevention, HIV counseling and testing. A total of 551 people (male= 245, female= 306) attended the health fairs and accessed different health related services and information.

- **Engagement with girls and young women:** STF conducted 16 outreaches among young women through existing groups in communities. A total of 437 young women were reached by STF staff during the engagement; while 578 young women were reached by STF supported peer educators.

- **Teachers’ interactive sessions on SRH:** These were conducted to enhance teachers’ capacity to undertake SRH interventions in schools with young people. The sessions were used to support the teachers in reflecting upon their own attitudes, feelings, beliefs, experiences and behavior regarding sexuality. A total of 34 teachers from seventeen implementing schools were supported.

- **Community engagement with parents, and leaders:** These were undertaken among 248 people to contribute towards the creation of a supportive SRH environment for adolescent girls and young women. A total of 248 parents, and leaders were reached through dialogue sessions. Discussions addressed social cultural drivers of HIV and other SRH challenges with emphasis on their roles as agents of social change in supporting young women and adolescent girl’s to access SRH information and services.

- **Static activities at Nwoya Youth Center:** These include the use of edutainment, provision of SRH information, HIV counseling and referrals for specialised services to other health facilities.
Adjumani Youth Center:

The focus of STF Adjumani Youth Center is to enhance the uptake of family planning services and information through work with local government and civil society organizations in Adjumani. In 2017, STF implemented the following:

- **Demand creation for family planning services:** STF conducted integrated health service delivery. These were undertaken to increase FP uptake and utilization of SRH services among the community members. A total of 1,547 (males-674 and female-873) people were reached with health messages and information on FP during such integrated outreaches. A total of 12 Live radio shows were held to augment demand creation for family planning services in Adjumani.

- **Service delivery:** In total 253 women received various FP methods (Pills- 69, Injections (Depo) - 103, Implants-29, Moon beads-55 and 3 women were referred to Adjumani hospital for IUD). A total of 11,807 (male condoms-11,664 and female condoms-143) were distributed at the center and during community outreaches. 1,518 people received HCT services.

- **Engagement with peer educators:** A refresher training was conducted for 40 (m-22 & f-18) peer educators. The purpose of the training was to strengthen peer educator knowledge on recent FP and SRH information to enhance their capacities in providing peer counseling.

- **Engagement with health workers:** Undertaken through coordination with health facilities such engagements sought to enhance access and utilization of FP and other reproductive health services by clients at the health facility level. Further to this 11 health facilities were capacitated through training to increase their knowledge and skills on SRH and youth friendly services delivery.

- **Engagement with cultural, political and religious leaders:** A dialogue meeting was held to provide a platform for leaders to discuss key challenges faced in addressing family planning and reproductive health facilities in their communities. Leaders drew action plans to address such challenges. A total of 108 (m-71 and f-37) cultural, political and religious leaders participated in the dialogue.

**Capacity building for grassroots partners:**

In a separate grant from AJWS, STF provided tailored technical capacity building support to four grassroots SRHR of the AJWS to enhance their technical competence to implement rights-based approaches to SRH education and service linkages for adolescent girls and young women in Northern Uganda. As part of continued support that commenced in 2016; a key focus of the capacity building support was addressing sexual and reproductive health and rights, sexual and reproductive health services, sexual and gender based violence, community involvement, linking sexuality education and SRH services.

The capacity building activities were informed by organizational capacity assessments for each organization. In other areas, grantees were supported to develop ASRH curricula, Policies on Child Protection and Gender and guidelines on beneficiary engagement. Overall, the initiative targeted key staff of the organizations and representatives of their respective Boards.

It is anticipated that this initiative will enhance the sustainability of program interventions and organization effectiveness in delivering SRH programs for girls and young women in Northern Uganda.
Closing the Gap:

Launched in 2014, Closing the Gap is a three year health system strengthening project implemented through STF’s Gulu and Kitgum Youth Centers aimed at promoting Sexual Reproductive Health services. The initiative focuses on Family Planning (FP) services, and an emphasis on Long-Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC), particularly Intrauterine Contraceptive devices (IUCD) through increasing awareness and demand for family planning services in the communities and advocating for services to youth and women in the reproductive ages (15 – 49). Closing the Gap is hinged on the following 3 pillars:

- **Demand creation** through the provision of SRH information to community members, engagement with community leaders, dialogues with men and community theatre.
- **Service Delivery** at facility level through referrals by volunteers and mentorship and coaching of health workers at partner facilities.
- **Improving quality of care** among partner health facilities through support with quality management, equipment, drugs and support supervision;

At community level, the project works with trained community peer educators, community health teams (Community Health Volunteers) and district local governments. At district level, STF collaborates with other stakeholders in provision of SRH services. The district health teams in Kitgum and Gulu support the planning and implementation of activities i.e. support supervision, mentorship and coaching of service providers and community volunteers; YPPs/ CHVs. STF regularly participates in the quarterly sector meetings at the district level.
The table below shows the outputs achieved by the Closing the Gap (CtG) project in 2017:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity description</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Update training of service providers to offer quality FP LARC services</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Update training of service providers to offer quality FP and PAC services</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mentorship of service providers in health education and data management</td>
<td>222</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provision of FP information and education to clients</td>
<td>103,028</td>
<td>20,600</td>
<td>82,428</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health fairs to create demand for and offer FP and PAC services</td>
<td>3,589</td>
<td>965</td>
<td>2,624</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dialogues with men focusing on FP</td>
<td>2,785</td>
<td>2588</td>
<td>197</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day long events to provide information and services on FP and PAC</td>
<td>20,647</td>
<td>6,251</td>
<td>14,396</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth to youth health education sessions at CtG supported facilities</td>
<td>23,496</td>
<td>7,800</td>
<td>15,696</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community dialogues on FP and PAC</td>
<td>11,133</td>
<td>6,030</td>
<td>5,103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stakeholders meeting</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>165,112</strong></td>
<td><strong>44,411</strong></td>
<td><strong>120,701</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Major Programmatic Achievements:**

To date, *Closing the Gap* has attained the following achievements:

- **Strengthened Quality of care at health facilities.** About 98% of the facilities meet the required MoH quality of care standards as a result of mentorship empowering service providers to offer quality services.
- **Improved reporting compliance** in line with DHIS II at the district level as well as facility level documentation. About 95% of CtG partner facilities report promptly. This is attributed to routine data quality audits and support supervision geared towards improving documentation at the facilities.
- **Strengthened coordination between the District Health teams and health facilities.** About 40% of District to facility engagements are supported by CtG, this is attributed to routine support supervision which is conducted jointly with the district stakeholders.
- **Improved Youth Friendly Service delivery:** About 90% of the collaborating health facilities meet the required minimum standards, this is attributed to the training of service providers on Youth Friendly Services delivery and the establishment of youth friendly corners.
- **Improved health community management at the health facilities.** About 60% of the facilities have adopted monthly updating of stock cards as a new practice. This was enforced through commodity management training and support supervision conducted jointly with the District Assistant Drug Inspector (DADI).
- **Increased Family Planning commodity security at the health facilities.** Cases of drug stock out at the facilities have reduced to less than 10% among the supported health facilities. This is attributed to the procurement of supplies by the project and strengthened coordination with NMS and alternative drug supply sources.
Livelihoods & Environment

The livelihoods and environment component of STF work is currently mainstreamed into ongoing work with young people. During this period, STF showcased such work through local raising of tree seedlings at STF to serve as a learning center for communities and young people. The following were key activities undertaken:

**Seeding raising:** Ten thousand nine hundred seventy four (10,974) assorted seedlings were raised at the mini nursery maintained at the Head Office in Kampala as classified in the table below. The nursery shared among STF clients management practices to raise healthy seedlings. Additionally, the public learned about the different tree species to inspire tree planting.

**Seedling distribution:** Two thousand one hundred fifty five (2,155) seedlings of different species were distributed to individuals and schools to initiate them to tree planting for conservation, shade, environmental amelioration and income generation. In schools, planting was done by members of the respective Environment Clubs. This was intended to equip students with knowledge and skills in tree growing and management.

**Extension service provision:** STF offered advisory services to over hundred stakeholders visiting STF and those who made calls for specialized services. Examples of services offered include advice on soil fertility management, nursery establishment and management, tree growing and income generation. Recipients of tree seedlings were oriented to woodlot establishment and best practices in tree planting.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specie</th>
<th>Indegenous name</th>
<th>Number raised</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grevillea robusta</td>
<td>Grevillea</td>
<td>8,135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Khaya anthotheca</td>
<td>Mahogany</td>
<td>505</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gmelina arborea</td>
<td>Gmelina (White teak)</td>
<td>657</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carica papaya</td>
<td>Pawpaw</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passiflora edulis</td>
<td>Passionfruit</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artocarpus eterophyllus</td>
<td>Jackfruit</td>
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<td>Eucalyptus grandis</td>
<td>Eucalyptus</td>
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<td>Annona spp.</td>
<td>Soursop fruit (Kitafeeli)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Syzygium cumini</td>
<td>Jambula</td>
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<tr>
<td>Citrus sinensis</td>
<td>Oranges (citrus)</td>
<td>110</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canarium ovatum</td>
<td>Muwafu (Mpafu)</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>10,974</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Generating knowledge for learning:

The STF Research and Evaluation department provides support to programs in the various locations of implementation. The unit is tasked with tracking organisation progress and demonstrating impact through Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning. Key activities of this function are to support quality improvement processes for STF programs through routine Data Quality Audits. This entails assessment of STF data on a quarterly basis by undertaking reviews of data management and reporting systems and verification of data reported for accuracy and reliability.

Using a results based management approach that incorporates building capacity to ensure quality and documentation of performance, the research and evaluation unit contributed support towards decision making through documenting performance in the form of progress reports.

Key highlights from 2017 are:

Showcasing for learning: A number of abstracts were presented at the International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa (ICASA) hosted in Cote D’ivoire in 2017.

These included:

a) **Involving Men as a Sustainable Approach to Community Prevention. STF Uganda’s Male Action Groups (MAGS)**

The abstract illustrated that inclusion of men through incorporating income generating activities in their action groups enhances sustainable HIV prevention in communities and ensures mitigation of social cultural drivers of HIV.

With income from their IGAs, the MAGS conducted 234 dialogues across the 7 districts engaging 4131 (2086 males, 2045 females) to discuss child marriage, defilement, and GBV. As an alert system, they reported...
Determinants of Exposure to Risky Sexual Behavior among In-School Young People (15-24) In Uganda

This study illustrated determinants of exposure to risky sexual behavior among in-school young people (15-24) in Adjumani district. Six randomly selected secondary schools participated in the study where trained research assistants approached all students who were enrolled in Senior Three (S3) to Senior Six (S6) grades and aged 15-24 years.

Five-in-every ten young people did not consistently use condoms while less than three-in-every ten had multiple sexual partners. In the multivariate analysis, inconsistent condom use was more likely among the females and less likely among young people who had their first sex at later years of 16-23. Young people who lived with their guardians were less likely to have multiple sexual partners compared to those who lived with their fathers only.

These findings point to the need to review the School Health Policy to allow sexuality education; promote use of female condoms while building negotiation skills among females; promote measures that restrict exposure to risky behaviours among adolescents.
Human Resource, Finance & Administration:

The role of this section at STF is to provide human resource management and administration services to the organization’s programs and operations in line with the laws and regulatory requirements of the government of Uganda. Key tasks of the department include Human Resources Management (HR), Administration, Supply Chain Management, Fleet Management and IT. In 2017, the department provided a full-range of support services, programs and resources in the areas of recruitment, employee benefits, compensation, compliance, employee relations, recognition and talent management.

At the beginning of 2017, STF had a total of 91 contracted staff members (52 males and 39 females) By 31st December 2017, the organisation had 99 staff (56 males and 43 females). STF is confident that it has staff with knowledge, skills, abilities, professionalism and passion to promote the organization’s Mission and Vision. Management congratulates the following staff for their outstanding performance in 2017 and for being recognized as Star Employees.

Our Star Employees - 2017

Pius Onenchan:
Monitoring & Evaluation Officer, Gulu. He joined STF in 2015. Pius has been an exceptional staff who has played important roles in supporting organizational learning in advancing family planning in Northern Uganda.

Susan Ajok:
Executive Director. Susan has diligently served STF since 1998. She joined STF as a junior staff and has to date served in various capacities. She inspires many staff and is very exemplary in her leadership and management of STF.

Bight Biira Gedi,
STF Project Coordinator. Having served at STF Moroto field office, Biira has consitently grown her leadership skills by supporting a vibrant team of 12 STF field staff.

Godfrey Walakira,
Training and Development Manager. He has worked with STF since 2002. Godfrey is recognized for his passion to serve young people and serving as a good ambassador of STF among stakeholders.

Carol Napeyok,
Project Officer. Joined STF in 2006 to host a radio program in Ngakarimojong. Carol has grown professionally and has been instrumental in supporting the growth of STF operations in Karamoja.
## Incomes Received (UGX)

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<th>PARTNER</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
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<td>UNICEF</td>
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<td>DUF UNGDOMRINGEN</td>
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<td><strong>SUBTOTAL</strong></td>
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<td>CHEMONICS - FEED THE FUTURE</td>
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<td>RED CARD CAMPAIGN</td>
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<td>UNICEF (E-CONTENT)</td>
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<td>194,688,000</td>
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<td><strong>SUBTOTAL</strong></td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL FUNDS RECEIVED (UGX)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>10,162,953,692</strong></td>
<td><strong>7,782,798,415</strong></td>
<td><strong>13,166,327,516</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Expenditure Summary:

![Expenditure Summary Diagram]

Partner Support:

We are grateful to all our partners for their generous support.

[Partner logos and names]
STF Field offices:

- **Gulu:** Plot 14A, Upper Churchill Drive, P.O. Box 752 Gulu, Uganda, Tel: 0471- 432 511/ 0471- 432 513

- **Kitgum:** Samson Lokoni Road, East Ward A Quarters Kitgum Town Council, P.O. Box 232 Kitgum,(U), Tel: 0471 439 680

- **Nwoya:** Nwoya C1 Pakwach Road, Opposite Anaka Hospital, Tel: 0392 - 612 604

- **Adjumani:** Maci Old Adropi sub county, Head Quarter Road Laropi Cesia, Adjumani Town Council P.O. Box 9 Adjumani, (U) Tel: 0392 - 280 648

- **Lira:** Plot 12 Aki Bua Drive, Adyel Division, Lira Municipal, P.O. Box 22366, Kampala Uganda Tel: 0393 - 262009

- **Bugiri:** Mwondha Road, Mukuba Cell, Nkusi Ward Bugiri Town Council, Tel: 0392 - 178744,

- **Moroto:** Plot 63, Maana Male, Pian Road, P.O. Box 147 Moroto, (U) Tel: 0392 - 280 648

**Toll Free SMS:** 6300

- **facebook.com/pages/Straight-talk-Foundation**
- **https://twitter.com/STFUganda**

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**EMPOWERING LIVES OF YOUNG PEOPLE**

*Designed by: George Bbulira Mukasa*