

# STAND UP FOR SRHR



## BACKGROUND

The Standup for Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (Standup) is a six-and-a-half-year project funded by Global Affairs Canada through Oxfam Canada. It is implemented in Uganda by Oxfam in partnership with Femme Forte and the Centre for Health, Human Rights and Development (CEHURD). The project operates in the districts of Eastern Uganda (Namayingo and Mayuge) and West Nile (Madi Okollo, Terego, Nebbi, Arua District, and Arua City).

Its ultimate goal is to increase the enjoyment of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) for the most marginalized and vulnerable right-holders, particularly adolescent girls (10 to 19 years) and young women (20 to 29 years), including those with intersecting vulnerabilities due to sexual or gender orientation, or status as refugees or internally displaced persons.

The project addresses key gender inequality and human rights issues, particularly: harmful social norms, traditional practices, and taboos regarding gender and sexuality; lack of adequate information on or access to comprehensive SRH services; lack of meaningful decision-making power by young women and girls regarding their health and sexuality as well as limited/weak organizing by Women Rights Organizations (WROs) and Youth-Led Organizations (YLOs).



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to our donors; Global Affairs Canada, through OXFAM and our partners; Center for Health, Human Rights and Development (CEHURD), who have been instrumental in supporting the Stand Up for SRHR project.

Empowering adolescent girls and young women, especially those from marginalized communities to access comprehensive SRHR services is not only a matter of health but also a fundamental human rights issue that contributes to gender equality, economic development, and social justice. Your contributions therefore are not only pushing essential initiatives but also advocating for meaningful change and fostering stronger advocacy networks in our target districts in West Nile and Eastern Uganda.

We appreciate the work of Samantha Agasha, the Storyteller at Femme Forte who designed this edition, with help from Jacqueline Nampijja, the Programs Officer, Femme Forte.

To the rest of our staff members and field coordinators whose tireless efforts and dedication make this work possible, your passion and expertise are the cornerstone of our impact, enabling us to advance our mission with integrity and compassion.

We also want to recognize the dedication of all the participants of our different program activities this quarter; peer educators, head teachers, police and law enforcement, local leaders and district administrative and education officials. Thank you! Your active engagement and commitment drive the success of this project.

To learn more about Femme Forte Uganda, please visit our website at [www.femmeforteug.org](http://www.femmeforteug.org). If you have any questions or need further information, feel free to contact us on:

Telephone: +256 393 224 051

Email: [info@femmeforteug.org](mailto:info@femmeforteug.org)



## GENDER SENSITIVE TRAININGS IN WEST NILE

On 6th May, Femme Forte conducted 4 gender sensitive trainings, attended by 101 participants (82 males & 19 female) including headteachers, sub-county CDOs, district and sub-county youth chairpersons from Nebbi and Madi Okollo, Arua District and Arua City, Terego, Rhino camp and Imvepi Refugee settlements. The training created awareness on how gender shapes the roles of women in society which in turn affects how they relate with men, and helped participants understand the basic elements of gender mainstreaming thus enabling them to systematically integrate and improve the situation of women in their communities.

### DIALOGUES ON PREVENTION OF SGBV & PROMOTION OF SRHR

The dialogues were held on 7th and 9th May, in the districts of Nebbi and Madi Okollo and attended by 35 participants (21 males & 14 females) including; peer educators, head teachers, local council leaders, police officers, the Chief Administrative Officer and other district officials. The main objective was to document SGBV issues in the community, the current measures to reduce occurrence, and to improve participants' understanding of their roles in SGBV prevention. The dialogue provided a platform for peer educators to interact with the leaders and share their different SGBV-related issues and frustrations around reporting.



Peer educators of the Femme Forte Health Club at the dialogue on prevention of SGBV and Promotion of SRHR held in Madi Okollo District

## MEETINGS WITH EDUCATION OFFICIALS AND SCHOOL COUNCILS ON EFFECTIVE MECHANISMS TO PROVIDE COMPREHENSIVE SRHR IN SCHOOLS

The meetings were held on 13th and 14th May in the Eastern region (Mayuge and Namayingo) and between 8th and 10th May in West Nile (Madi Okollo, Terego and Arua City and brought together 149 participants (100 males & 49 females.) The meetings aimed at discussing comprehensive mechanisms on provision of extensive SRHR education within schools and education institutions. It fostered collaboration and coordination among the stakeholders involved in SRHR education, and also the identification of challenges and barriers to providing comprehensive SRHR education such as cultural sensitivities, and lack of support from policy makers.

## MEETINGS WITH LOCAL LEADERS TO DISSEMINATE FINDINGS FROM THE SGBV CONSULTATIONS

Femme Forte held 5 meetings between 30th May and 10th June, in Mayuge, Nebbi, Arua City, Arua District and Madi Okollo, where the team presented key findings from previously conducted SGBV/SRHR consultations to 82 participants (54 males & 30 females) from both the community and local government. The issue paper delved into discussions on different measures taken by local government agencies in holding SGBV perpetrators accountable while ensuring survivors get justice.



Arua District Chairperson, Alfred Okuonzi addresses local leaders at a meeting in Arua City, to disseminate findings from previously conducted SGBV consultations



## REFERRAL PATHWAY INSTALLATIONS

Femme Forte, with the help of the relevant district stakeholders, designed and in June, installed signposts of the referral pathways that safely link survivors to services such as health, psychosocial support, case management, safety/security, and justice and legal aid at the district headquarters in Madi Okollo (Ogoko and Pawor sub counties), Terego (Leju and Ai-vu sub counties), Nebbi (Nebbi Town Council, Erussi and Parombo sub counties), Mayuge (Bukatube, Mayuge town council, Kityerera and Kigandalo sub counties) and Namayingo (Banda, Bukaana, Sigulu and Lolwe sub counties)

## RADIO TALK SHOWS IN ARUA CITY

On 6th and 7th June, Femme Forte conducted 2 radio talk shows on Arua One FM, which covers all of West Nile, to disseminate knowledge/learning products and materials on SRHR promotion and GBV prevention, such as the installed district referral pathways and the toll-free line for SGBV cases and survivors.

The shows were hosted in English, Alur and Lugbara, and featured young people that serve as peer educators in the Femme Forte Health Club at school and also community leaders whose work focuses mainly on SGBV prevention and SRHR promotion.



Peer educators of St. Michael Odramacaku live on Arua One FM, discussing the impact of the Stand Up project on their school and community

# INTER-SCHOOL DEBATES ON HIV-STI PREVENTION AND ADOLESCENT PREGNANCY PREVENTION

The competitions aimed at enhancing students' understanding, critical thinking, and communication skills regarding SRHR issues. Primary school students debated the motion, "This house believes that boys and girls should be treated equally and with respect." whereas secondary schools debated, "This house believes that peer education programs are the most effective approach to promoting SRHR, and prevention of SGBV in schools." The motion for the final teams was, "This house believes that Uganda's current policies and innovations are enough to reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS." The competitions brought together 258 peer educators from 20 schools in Eastern Uganda and West Nile.

## LINKING ADOLESCENT GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN TO SRHR AND SGBV SERVICES

Femme Forte linked 211 pupils (69 young girls & 142 boys) to SRHR and SGBV services, through inter-school football competitions that attracted 20 schools (300 peer educators and change agents in total) in Eastern Uganda and West Nile. The health services were provided in partnership with Reproductive Health Uganda (RHU) throughout the matches, and we had interludes inform of music, dance, and drama activities that were geared towards creating awareness on SRHR issues among the students and the community present. Watch the mini-documentary: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YmAjEBB4rrE>



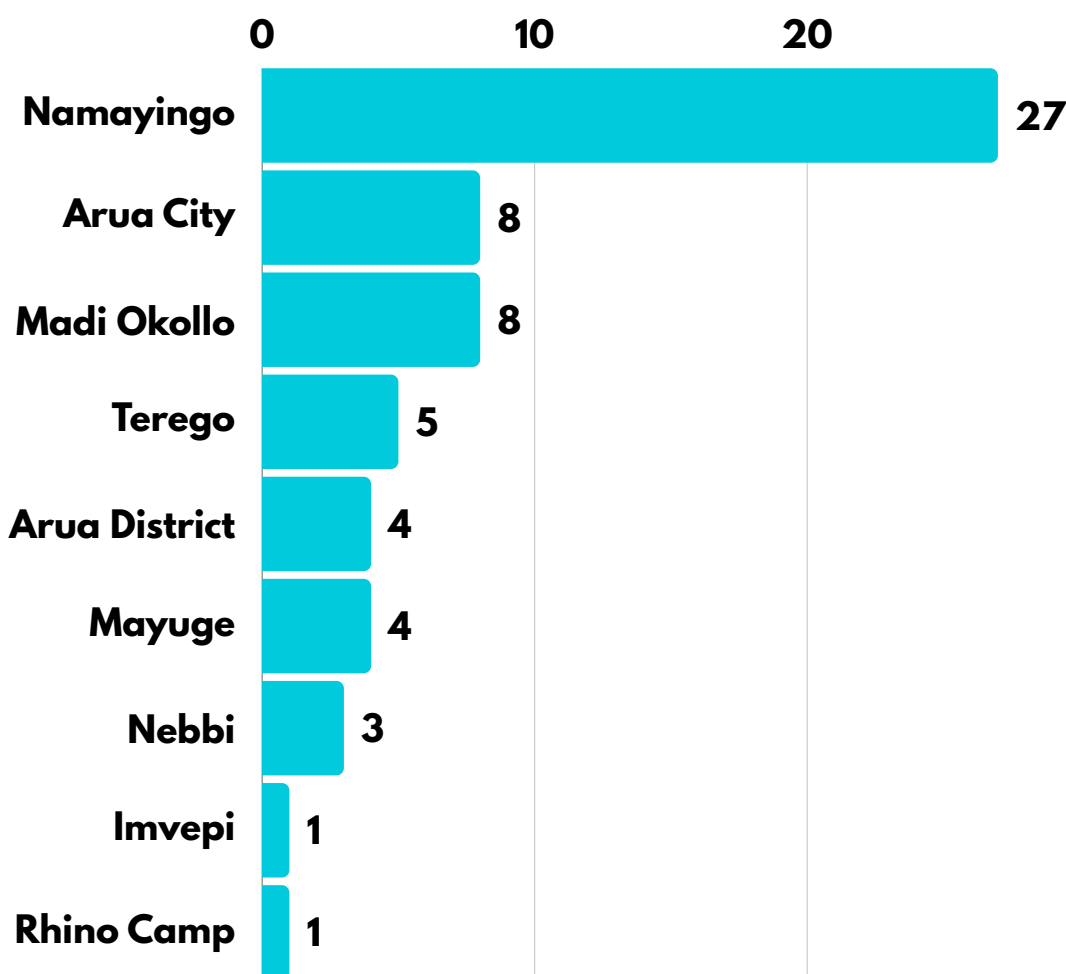
Peer educators and community members participate in a dance interlude at the football matches held in Nebbi District

# MAPPING SRH AND SGBV SERVICES AVAILABLE IN OUR PROJECT COMMUNITIES AND DISTRICTS

The mapping primarily focused on the Stand-Up for SRHR project implementing facilities where Reproductive Health Uganda (RHU) is based, and it aimed to identify the geographical distribution of services; detail the types of services provided, the organizations or institutions offering them, and the accessibility and coverage.

The services offered include, but are not limited to; STI testing and treatment, HIV testing, counseling and management, youth-friendly services, post abortion care, counselling and guidance, health education to adolescent youth groups, referral of rape and defilement cases to the police and GBV sensitization outreaches.

This information will be used to develop informative brochures and distribute them door-to-door to increase community knowledge about available services and how to access them.



*Fig 1: Number of health facilities mapped per project community/district*





Meeting with education officials in Nebbi



Dialogue on SGBV & promotion of SRHR in Nebbi



Dialogue on SGBV & promotion of SRHR in Madi Okollo



Ajia Primary celebrates their debate tournament win



Peer educators warm up before a football match



RHU's SRHR services at the inter-school football matches