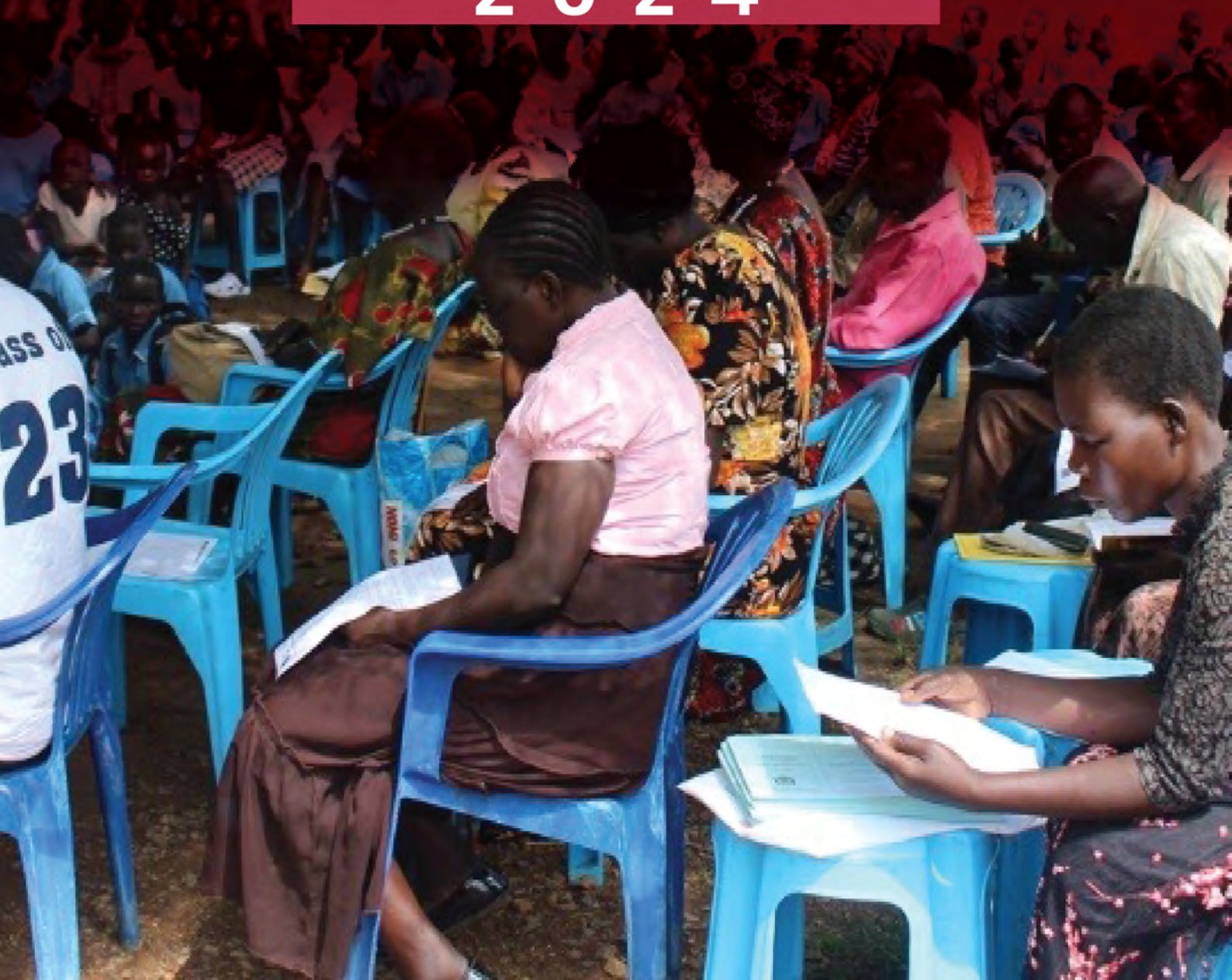




# ANNUAL REPORT

2024



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# 1. ADVANCE AFRIKA PROFILE

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## WHO WE ARE

Advance Afrika is a National NGO incorporated in 2012 as a not-for-profit entity and fully registered as NGO at NGO bureau. The organisation was founded on the premise that it is critical to elevate people's desires and aspirations to take responsibility for advancing their rights. We seek innovative approaches for creating sustainable sources of livelihood, in order to foster resilience among vulnerable people and social justice in the region.

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## OUR VISION:

**A safe and free society where young people live with dignity and realize their full potential.**

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## OUR MISSION:

**We address the root causes of vulnerability by developing opportunities for economic empowerment and transforming the social functionality of communities.**



## CORE VALUES:

### **Courageous leadership, Passion, Appreciation and Professionalism**

- **Courageous Leadership.** In Advance Afrika we are leaders of change. We are courageous in tackling difficult challenges, we boldly inspire, innovate and break new ground. We are quick to explore new ways of doing things, learn and grow; and we influence others to do the same.
- **Passion.** We are all committed to making a difference. We want to transform the lives of vulnerable people, adding lasting value to our society. This means that we care deeply about achieving a positive impact – we are engaged, results focused, and deliver our promises.
- **Appreciation.** We respect and value all who we work with. We seek to recognize and affirm each other's differing gifts and insights; celebrating diversity. We champion human dignity. We are optimistic, behaving kindly and respectfully. In times of conflict, we seek to reconcile different interests.
- **Professionalism.** We aim for high standards of quality and excellence in all that we do; seeking to discover and deliver best practice. We are disciplined, honest, accountable and transparent, so that we build trust with our stakeholders. We are good stewards of the resources entrusted to us, aiming to give value for money.



## WHAT WE DO - THEMATIC FOCUS

The organisation's thematic strategic objectives (SOs) are;

### **SO1: Transforming vulnerable individuals and communities:**

Advance Afrika addresses violence against women and children; prioritizes rehabilitation and reintegration of prison inmates and ex-inmates; and community engagement for transformation and peace building;

**SO2: Business and Job Creation:** Advance Afrika focuses on creation of income generation and employment opportunities through skill development (including soft skills, practical (hands-on) skills, and leadership skills among others); entrepreneurship development, support workplace success; enterprise development and increasing marketing accessibility through collective marketing strategy , value addition, compliance and quality enhancements, , public-private partnerships, mentorship and BDS support, and financial inclusion.

**SO3: Advocacy and creative communications:** Focus here is on generating evidence through research and assessments, interactive social media platforms and coalitions, to address vulnerability root causes among the youth, through engagement meetings with duty bearers.

**SO4: Institutional growth and capacity building:** This includes, capacity building of existing structures and grassroot organisations, effective management processes and systems, code of conduct/ standards, staff development and team building activities.

## 2. REMARKS BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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Warm greetings from Advance Afrika.

The Advance Afrika Annual Report for 2024 outlines the organisation's projects and achievements aimed at enhancing the social functionality of communities. Despite managing few projects, the report emphasizes the collaborative efforts of various stakeholders in contributing to the organization's performance.

Key progresses were noted in raising awareness about the risks of early sexual relations among teenagers, career path options, and boosting student confidence and self-esteem. Over 8,050 students participated in sexual reproductive health and rights (SRHR) activities, including counselling, career guidance, debates, and parent-teacher conferences. There has been an outstanding shift in mindset within communities which has resulted in improved child care commitment and increased parental responsibility. The introduction of antenatal care training also improved access to maternal and child health services. These initiatives have restored hope and confidence among teenage mothers and youth, motivating them to pursue educational, and vocational goals, thereby enhancing their resilience.

The relationships among project stakeholders, which include senior teachers, village health teams (VHTs), health care officers, model parents, religious leaders, and local government officials, have been constructive. These stakeholders actively engaged in project activities and pledged ongoing support. Throughout this process, Advance Afrika and its partners maintained open lines of communication to ensure participation in relevant discussions.

Looking ahead, despite anticipated challenges in securing funding for development programs, Advance Afrika has successfully obtained funding for 2025 that aligns with its vision of enabling young people to live with dignity and realize their full potential.

I conclude with appreciation for our development partners and donors supporting Advance Afrika. I also recognise the Board of Directors for their continued strategic guidance, and appreciate the staff for their dedication, commitment and courageous leadership in making a meaningful impact in society.

**Sharon Atukunda**  
**Chief Executive Officer**

# 3. OUR REACH 2024 OFFICER

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This section shows a list of projects implemented in 2024 and key targets reached or attained

## 1 COMMUNITY RESPONSE ACTIONS TO REDUCE TEENAGE PREGNANCIES IN BUSOGA AND WEST NILE (ATP)

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### Location

Busoga (Kamuli, Luuka) and West Nile (Arua, Nebbi)

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### Implementing partner

Advance Afrika (AA), Echoes of Children Voices (ECoV, co-applicant) and Help Disabled Children Excel (HEDCHE,

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### Donor

European Union

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## 2 UMUNTHU - EDUCATION AND SKILLING

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### Location

Gulu

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### Implementing partner

Chance for Change and Advance Afrika

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### Donor

Norwegian Agency for Exchange Cooperation (NOREC)

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## 3 INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT TOWARDS ADVANCE AFRIKA'S COMMUNICATION AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS

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### Location

Kampala

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### Implementing partner

Advance Afrika

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### Donor

Bread for the World

## SO1: TRANSFORMING VULNERABLE INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES



81 SENIOR TEACHERS

41 FEMALE

40 MALE



2,250 STUDENTS

1,350 FEMALE

900 MALE

81 senior teachers (41F, 40M) in the 40 selected schools were engaged actively in providing counselling guidance to students. A total of 2,250 students (1,350F, 900M) received counselling and career guidance.



1,360 CHILDREN

In collaboration with National Debate Council, 1,360 children directly benefited from the training on two main debate formats: the World School Debate (WSD) for primary schools and the Karl Popper Debate (KPD) for secondary schools and participated in the school debate competitions.



350 TEACHERS



700 PARENTS



8,050 PUPILS

Sessions of parent-teacher conferences with an emphasis on Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) were held in 40 schools during the reporting period. An average of 230 children, 20 parents, and 10 teachers per school attended the sessions. 350 teachers, 700 parents, and 8,050 pupils in all.



603 TEENAGE MOTHERS



40 VHTS

603 teenage mothers were reached by VHTs and Health Assistants in close coordination with the District Health Departments. 40 VHTs and four health assistants were actively involved and facilitated in doing outreaches in the chosen sub-counties in Kamuli, Luuka, Nebbia and Arua districts.



603 EXPECTANT GIRLS' TEENAGERS

100 expectant girls' teenagers (40 from Busoga and 60 from West Nile) received antenatal care (ANC) training sessions, mama kits and with all the young mothers delivered in health facilities.

## SO2: BUSINESS AND JOB CREATION

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**108** TEENAGE  
MOTHERS

108 teenage mothers were trained in life skills, basic entrepreneurship and VSLA methodology.

## SO3: ADVOCACY AND CREATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

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**02** RADIO TALK  
SHOWS

Two radio talk shows were broadcasted on Radio Maria in Nebbi and Radio Ssebo FM in Kamuli. The talk shows provided a forum for discussing children's rights and the role of the community in protecting them.

## SO4: INSTITUTIONAL GROWTH AND CAPACITY BUILDING

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**11** STAFF  
TRAINED

11 staff of Advance Afrika were trained in cognitive behaviour therapy and rebuilding Identity

# 4. PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

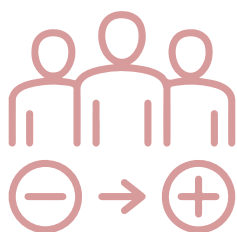
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Aligned to the strategic goals of the organisation, this section highlights 2024 achievements from the projects implemented, challenges, the impact, lessons learnt and success stories.

## I. ACTIVITY ACHIEVEMENTS

### SO1

## Transforming Vulnerable Individuals and Communities



## Senior teachers provide counselling and career guidance to boys and girls

Under the ATP Action, 81 senior teachers (41F, 40M) in the 40 selected schools in Busoga and West Nile engaged actively in providing counselling guidance to students. Each senior teacher had an average of 12 to 15 students per term. Specifically, 2250 students (1,350F, 900M) participated during this reporting period. The counselling methods included individual sessions, group discussions, peer mentorship and creating safe spaces for the students, supplemented by follow-ups involving parents, school administration, and healthcare workers. These counselling sessions were facilitated under the action Key topics addressed during the counselling sessions included children's rights, adolescent changes (physical growth, cognitive maturation, emotional development), dangers of early sexual practices, school discipline and academic performance. Focus areas emphasised were building identity, managing peer pressure, mental health challenges, risky behaviours, the impact of social media, as well as sexual reproductive health and rights (SHRH) and preparing for self-

independence. The activity contributed to regular counselling sessions being conducted, facilitated follow-ups on neglected parent-student cases, organised career days and, aligned students with educational and vocational opportunities. Thus, the activity enhanced knowledge of reproductive health, delayed engagement in sexual activities, reduced stigma for young expectant girls, increased awareness of career paths and improved academic motivation among students.

On the other hand, the schools had to deal with issues including understaffed schools and uncooperative parents. The senior teachers and school administration praised the action for improving the effectiveness of counselling services for students and even their parents by utilising and making their responsibilities functional. However, they advised the district officials to continue providing refresher courses, educate more teachers, and work with law enforcement to deal with irresponsible parents. The schools emphasised that in order to maintain the action's efforts and successes, ongoing program support is required.



Mr. Onek Frank, the senior teacher of Angal Boys Primary School and Mrs Andezu May, a senior teacher at Arua Public SS counselling students.



Group Photo with the Senior Men & Senior Women Teachers from West Nile, the Acting DHO, Maternal & Child Health, & Advance Afrika staff.

## Organising and facilitating school debates

Advance Afrika worked with the National Debate Council during the reporting period to offer guidance regarding the debate procedure in schools. A total of 1,360 children directly benefited from the debate training and participated in the school debate competitions (1000 from all the schools in West Nile and 360 from Busoga). The training covered two main debate formats: the World School Debate (WSD) for primary schools and the Karl Popper Debate (KPD) for secondary schools. Both formats placed a strong emphasis on the value of research, effective communication, and argumentation, as well as the techniques, speaker roles, and debate structure. Each session included interactive learning, note-taking, and trial debates, providing an opportunity for students to practice and share their perspectives. National Debate Council and a private consultant engaged by ECoV, worked with headteachers, senior teachers, and the administrative staff at Advance Afrika.

Students in primary school used the World School Debate by using more conversational and approachable arguments, whereas secondary school students used the Karl Popper Debate by taking part in structured discussions with affirmative and negative sides. Important debating techniques were taught to the students, including preparation time, cross-examination, clash points, and the judges' role in selecting the victorious side based on the quality of the arguments and delivery. Adolescent pregnancies were amongst the topics discussed. The activity significantly increased interest in debating, leading to new debating clubs and greater participation from students. Debating has improved students' confidence and self-esteem, while also enhancing teachers' capacities to nurture and grooming the young girls and boys into debate leaders. School administrations emphasised the importance of extracurricular activities like debates and urged the Ministry of Education and civil society organisations to support related capacity building and exposure initiatives. Head teachers expressed appreciation and commitment to increasing student engagement in extracurricular activities.



Patrick Okot a consultant from NDC training the learners of Ekarakafe P/S the World School Debate format.



A speaker from the proposition team on left interjecting the current speaker in a debate at Eruba primary school in Arua.



The speaker from the Negative side negating the resolution in a trial debate after the training at Mvara SS in Arua City.



A student sharing her testimony and how she benefited from counselling services after re-joining school as a teenage mother.



Students of St. Maria Goretti Girls SS share their testimonies and experiences from the project activities.

### Conducting parent-teacher-student conference on SRHR

In 40 schools in the districts of Arua, Nebbi, Kamuli, and Luuka, two sessions of parent-teacher conferences with an emphasis on Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) were held during the reporting period. An average of 230 children, 20 parents, and 10 teachers per school attended the sessions. 350 teachers, 700 parents, and 8,050 pupils in all. With input from important stakeholders like the District Health officers, school inspectors, a representative from the Police Child

and Family Protection Unit, and modal parents, the school conferences sought to promote open communication about SRHR. The schools were also supported by a simple mobile public address system which has been used in other various activities in the schools. The topics discussed included the value of moral advice, how to prepare and guide children through the adolescent phase, sexual decision-making and values, family planning and STDs/AIDS, parental participation, and tackling social issues like nightclubs and markets closing late.



Parents, teachers and students' conferences schools in Arua and Nebbi districts

Diverse viewpoints were revealed during the meetings: parents expressed concerns about the lack of resources, gender-based violence in homes, and young people's exposure to drugs and alcohol, teachers emphasised the importance of early moral guidance, and health officers promoted SRHR education. Students also expressed a need for open communication with their parents. The activity contributed to two important results, mainly improved communication on SRHR subjects and giving students a forum to voice their concerns. It was also an opportunity for the parents to

follow up on the progress and performance of their children in school. Nonetheless, issues like time restraints, parents' unwillingness to talk about SRHR, and overworked teachers were observed. The recommendations included incorporating SRHR into the curriculum, increasing household outreach and community discussions on positive parenting, and proposing programs like peer education groups and student support networks. By creating a more knowledgeable and encouraging community, these initiatives will lower the number of adolescent pregnancies and promote healthier relationships.



Students at Arua Public Primary School actively participate in the Parent-Teacher-Student conference on SRHRs



Parents actively participate in the Parent-Teacher-Student conference on SRHRs at Arua Public Primary School

### Conducting VHT outreach (follow-up)

Under the ATP Action, 603 teenage mothers were reached by VHTs and Health Assistants in close coordination with the District Health Departments. 40 VHTs and four health assistants were actively involved and facilitated in doing outreaches in the chosen sub-counties in the districts of Arua, Nebbi, Kamuli, and Luuka. The VHTs offered advice on parent-child relationships based on open communication, support, and monitoring to teenage mothers, adolescents, and their families. They created a safe space for the teenage mothers to confide and discuss their struggles. To ensure

continuous support, the VHTs also monitored the intervention's results and progress at the household and community levels. These initiatives prioritised one-on-one assistance, community involvement, and promoting improved parent-teenage mother interactions in order to facilitate their reintegration into their communities and schools.

During the outreach, young mothers with HIV/AIDS were connected to care services for antiretroviral therapy, those struggling with STIs were referred to health clinics for treatment, and teenage mothers under stress received counselling on coping mechanisms. The teenage mothers were instructed on the significance of hospital

deliveries and how to prevent HIV transmission from mother to child. After learning about the advantages of family planning techniques, the majority of teenage mothers chose to use them. For additional advice, others were directed to health centres. Furthermore, the VHTs provided

nutritional education, urging backyard vegetable gardens, appropriate infant feeding techniques, and mixed farming for income and food security. Many households took action due to the positive reception of these initiatives.



A VHT from Nyaravur, Nebbi district providing health education to teenage mothers and on the use of the immunization card.



A VHT in Central Division, Arua sensitizing the young mother on WASH and Nutrition during the Outreach.



VHTs at the health facility bring forms with data on teenage mothers collected from the community in Kamuli district.

## Training expectant teenagers on antenatal care, immunisation, hygiene and sanitation

The 100 pregnant teenagers (40 from Busoga and 60 from West Nile) attended antenatal care (ANC) training sessions at the healthcare facilities. Advance Afrika and ECoV continued to remain in close cooperation with the eight health centres (IV, III, and II), collaborating closely with skilled midwives, nurses, VHTs, and health assistants. The participants in the activity were pregnant girls aged 12 to 18 who attended all four ANC sessions and were in their first and second trimesters. Local languages were used during the sessions to promote inclusivity and efficient communication. Key areas covered include early health-seeking behaviours, prenatal cleanliness, identifying warning signals, preventing HIV transmission from mother to child, nutrition, birth readiness, vaccination, and psychosocial support. The trainings also emphasised the value of partner participation in ANC, the significance of getting enough sleep and exercise, and the promotion of exclusive breastfeeding.

Each session began with an HIV status check for the girls, and those who tested positive were promptly placed on antiretroviral therapy. They received constant attention throughout the procedure, and their blood pressure was checked at every visit. During the visits, the girls felt safe and encouraged, especially since they were accompanied by other girls who were going through similar things. Topics including healthy eating, the significance of particular foods and beverages during pregnancy, appropriate clothing, and the advantages of exercise for safe delivery were all covered in detail. The expectant teenagers were also given iron and folic acid pills, even if transportation was hampered by weather variations and the difficulty of travelling great distances to training facilities. The teenagers received successful education from the ANC sessions regarding the hazards to maternal health, practical preventative strategies, and the significance of deliveries at medical facilities. This enhanced their self-esteem and preparedness for motherhood by providing them with information and emotional support. Additionally, emerging challenges were discussed, including the absence of parental support and teenage mothers' susceptibility to gender-based violence. The comprehensive approach of the program, which incorporates social, emotional, and psychological assistance, has had a profound effect on the lives of these young mothers by assisting them in making informed decisions and embracing better lifestyles for both themselves and their children.



Mrs. Constance Ongur training expectant teenagers on antenatal care, immunisation, hygiene and sanitation at Koch HCII in Nebbi District.



(R) A teenage mother receives the delivery kit from Mrs Constance Ongur the In-charge Koch HCII in Nebbi Sub-County.



(L) A beneficiary receives a set of delivery kit from Paul Bishop Drileba the DHO Arua District at Vurra HCIII in Vurra Sub-County.

# S02

## Business Growth and Job Creation



## Training in entrepreneurship, life skills and financial literacy

108 teenage mothers have been trained in life skills, basic entrepreneurship and VSLA methodology. The training sessions focused on life skills (communication, self-awareness, and coping with stress), group formation and governance, identifying opportunities (Income generation opportunities) and starting small, record keeping, simple saving and lending, VSLA rules and regulation, conflict resolution and share-out. The sessions were delivered by experienced VSLA members and business mentors. Additionally, 15 teenage mothers in Arua joined a new youth VSLA group under Amaani

Initiative, a youth organisation supported by the action and 40 teenage mothers (20 from Nyaravur sub county and 20 from Nebbi sub county) were guided through the registration process after the training in VSLA methodology. Through technical support and encouragement by project officers and a VSLA mentor, the groups were committed to go through the registration process, which took a period of two months since they needed time to gather the required documentation. The VSLA mentor continued to make routine visits to the VSLA groups to monitor their set up and progress as well ensure any savings were made in the right way.



(L)A beneficiary receives a set of delivery kit from Paul Bishop Drileba the DHO Arua District at Vurra HCIII in Vurra Sub-County.



VSLA mentors training teenage mothers on life skills and financial literacy in Kamuli District.



Teenage mothers pause for a group photo after two-day training in VSLA methodology and, financial literacy.

# S03

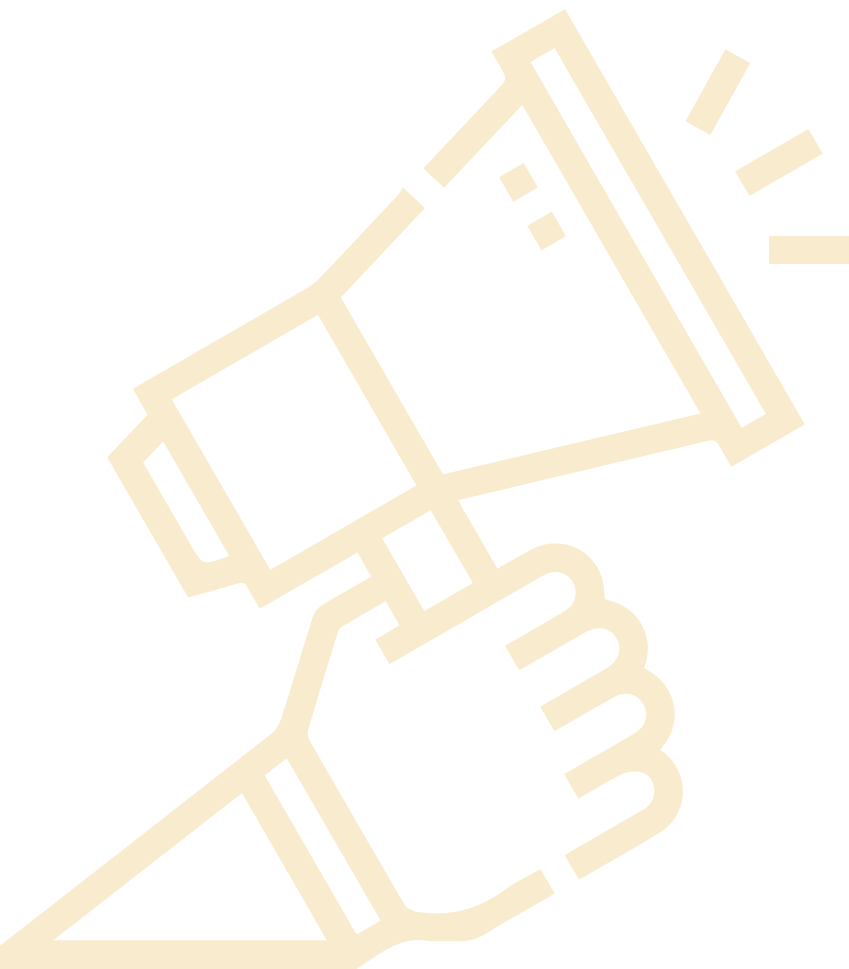
## Advocacy and Creative Communication



## Organising radio programmes

Two radio talk shows were broadcasted on Radio Maria in Nebbi and Radio Ssebo FM in Kamuli. These talk shows provided a forum for discussing children's rights and the role of the community in protecting them. In Nebbi, the show featured Okiria Peter Joseph, the District Community Development Officer for Nebbi District, Denis Warom, the Executive Director of Help Disabled Children Excel (HEDCE), and the project officer from Advance Afrika. Participants in Kamuli included Joshua Basena, the Community Development Officer for Namasagali, Kamuli District, Sharif Mpata, the Project Officer at ECOV, and Ntende J. Daniel, the Project Coordinator at Advance Afrika. The discussions highlighted the shared responsibility of communities, families, and leaders to prevent adolescent pregnancies. Experts like local education and community development officers emphasise the importance of parents as role models, community involvement in childrearing, and effective communication. They also discussed issues like parental neglect, underfunding, and poor education, emphasising the need to prioritise children's wellbeing to reduce risks like exploitation and untimely pregnancies.

The talk shows highlighted the significant issues of adolescent pregnancy in Kamuli and Nebbi, including economic constraints, poverty, cultural norms, parental irresponsibility, illiteracy, and unwillingness to pay for education. Both areas also had poor community support and restricted access to sexual health education, making young females more vulnerable to exploitation. Both shows recommended collaboration to rebuild community structures, enforce child protection laws, and provide stronger support for adolescent mothers. Immediate actions included empowering community members to report abuse, increasing awareness of legal consequences, and ensuring parents fulfil their roles in guiding their children towards healthier futures. Lessons learned to include the need for more empathetic parental engagement, community support systems, and accessible education and sexual health information.



# S03

## Institutional Growth and Capacity Building



## Training in cognitive behavior therapy- Rebuilding identity

11 staff members of Advance Afrika were trained in cognitive behavior therapy and rebuilding identity. The training was delivered by Norec participants in Uganda, John Phiri and Patience Suya. They also

held sessions on team building, anger management and advantage thinking. The training increased the knowledge of the Advance Africa staff, improved emotional well-being, healthier relationships, and a greater sense of self-acceptance, ultimately contributing to a more positive self-image.



C4C participants delivering sessions to AA staff on team building and advantage thinking



C4C participants delivering sessions to AA staff on team building and advantage thinking

### Chance for Change Partner visit Partner

From 13th -15th June 2024, Chance for Change (C4C), the project coordinator, visited their partner Advance Afrika in Uganda. The visit included the Executive Director, Grace Tionge Waluza, and Director of Finance, Ronnex Chirambo. The main objective of the partner visit was to i) monitor participants' progress, ii) provide them with guidance and support where necessary, iii) strengthen the partnership with Advance Africa and iv) plan, discuss and outline upcoming joint activities. The C4C delegation

visited Advance Africa offices, met with the staff and held discussions with prison social workers. During the visit, the management of C4C and Advance also discussed the new application with Norec, to ensure a cohesive and effective approach to achieving shared goals. Towards the end of the visit, the guests, together with the participants, were taken to visit Namugongo Martyrs shrine and enjoyed the cultural dances of Uganda at Ndere Troupe Center.



C4C team meeting with the Norecc participants and Advance Afrika staff at AA Office



Management of C4C and Advance Afrika together with Norec participants at Namugongo Martyrs Shrine

## II. LESSONS LEARNT

- The action also demonstrated **that social support and awareness activities can reduce stigma and discrimination.** Beneficiaries reported that the project helped reunite teenage mothers with their families and communities by promoting understanding and acceptance. In schools, students reported that through the awareness sessions on the rights of children and counselling sessions, they appreciated the changes in their bodies, and this enabled them to improve in general hygiene and have self-control of their emotions. There was reduced discrimination against pregnant pupils, which enabled them to continue and complete their studies. Teachers also observed improvements in students' confidence, critical thinking, and communication skills, noting that learners were more willing to express themselves and seek help when facing challenges.
- More so, **effective and tailored counselling reduces the long-term impacts of teenage pregnancies.** At the beginning of the action, teenage mothers encountered a lot of stress due to mistreatment and stigma, first from their own families and relatives at home and then in the communities they come from. There was an urgent need for psychosocial support. This support was offered by VHTs, Child Protection Officers and Probation officers, who provided counselling and proper follow-ups. The counselling sessions provided are relevant and timely. Throughout the action, the different community structures built a rapport with the teenage mothers which provided a safe space for the young mothers to manage their emotional, physical, and social challenges of early parenthood. This strengthened their confidence and self-esteem as young mothers.
- **Positive parenting skills are essential to promote a child's confidence and self-esteem.** Observations during parent-student-teacher conferences highlighted a significant gap in understanding between parents and children, as many parents were unaware of the issues affecting their children. However, during the reporting period, the recent parent-teacher-student conferences indicated an improvement in parent-child relationships, with students becoming more receptive and willing to discuss important matters. This development was attributed to the parenting sessions conducted by model parents and the mother/father union, which encouraged parents to reflect on their parenting styles. These sessions emphasised reducing financial burdens placed on children and instead fostering an environment of love, respect, active listening, and praise, contributing to a more disciplined and respectful behaviour from children.
- **Access to health information and services significantly improves maternal and child care practices.** Particularly during antenatal care, it was observed that a number of young girls lacked the right information on SRHRs prior to the ANC session. The sessions empowered the expectant girls and teenage mothers with the essential SRHRs knowledge, enabling them to make informed sexual decisions impacting their emotional, social and physical wellbeing. Expectant teenage girls who attended antenatal care sessions reported that they were better able to care for their babies. Similarly, teenage mothers shared that their hygiene and sanitation practices improved, and adopting other improved household hygiene practices.

### III. PROGRAM IMPACT

The projects contributed to increased awareness of the consequences and risks of early sexual relations among teenagers, increased awareness of career paths, and increased students' confidence and self-esteem. The debates and drama performances had the primary effect of improving students' communication, confidence, and the ability to develop talent. These activities sparked excitement among the learners and improved their interest in studies.

There has been an outstanding mindset shift within communities, with increased commitment to child care and improved parental responsibility in safeguarding and providing for their children. Community leaders have become more knowledgeable about legal frameworks and the proper responses to crimes such as defilement. Additionally, increased visibility of Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) through radio talk shows has enhanced community engagement, while SRHR lessons are being disseminated in local languages across the Busoga and West Nile regions, amplifying their impact.

The implementation of antenatal care training and the distribution of Mama kits and mosquito nets led to increased access to maternal health and child care services, a reduction in maternal mortality rates, and the creation of safe spaces for expectant teenagers to express themselves.

The project has successfully restored confidence and hope among teenage mothers, motivating them to pursue life goals such as returning to school, gaining income, and connecting with the business ecosystem, thereby enhancing their resilience.

# 5. STORIES OF CHANGE

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## **STORIES OF CHANGE DURING THE COUNSELLING AND CAREER GUIDING SESSIONS AT SCHOOL.**

### **OPRENI DAPHINE**

My name is Opreni Daphine, aged 13 years, studying in P.4 at Eruba primary school in Arua District. I started staying with my grandfather after the death of my father, and unfortunately my mother left and got married to another man. I was lucky to be identified by the senior woman teacher who got close to me and started counselling me. Likewise, I was really going through a lot of stress due to lack of parental love and being neglected by my mother. I have been struggling to stay in school because of a lack of school fees and other basic needs like scholastic materials, uniforms, soap, amongst others. The teacher offered me psycho-social support and physical support in terms of books and soap. The EU-Advance Afrika project offered me more books, a school bag school and pads that have kept me in school. The senior woman teacher also called my grandfather from school and had a discussion with him. I am so glad that my guardian was committed to continuing paying my school fees on time. I now go to school early and no longer miss classes, and this has motivated me to perform better in class. I appreciate Advance Afrika for encouraging me to continue my education and facilitating the senior woman teacher who counselled and acted as a parent to me.

### **AJOLORWOTH PRISCILLA**

I am called Ajolorwoth Priscilla, aged 14 years, in P.4, a pupil of Nyaravur primary school in Nebbi District. I stay with my aunt at her marital home, and she is the one who pays my school fees and supports all my needs. I have been harassed by my brother-in-law, who always comes closer to me and asks to sleep with him, but I always refuse, and he threatens to lie to my aunt that I sneak out of the house to go for a night disco when I don't. Not only that, but I was afraid to report the issue to my aunt for fear of being sent away from the house. After some time, I gained courage and shared my ordeal with the senior male teacher, who sat me down and counselled me because the issue was stressing me and making me unsettled. I am glad the teacher engaged my aunt and discussed the matter, and my brother-in-law no longer harasses me. I appreciate Advance Afrika for this programme because I was helped through the counselling sessions they facilitated.

### **AREM PEACE AMINA**

My name is Arem Peace Amina, a senior five student of Arua Public Secondary School. I conceived during the COVID-19 period, and it was a difficult time to navigate since I was staying with my sister, who didn't have a good-paying job to take care of me and my unborn baby. During this time, I used to go to the valleys to weed people's gardens to raise upkeep for me. I regret making a wrong choice which affected my dignity. Last year I was lucky to be admitted to this school after being rejected by several schools. I am so grateful to the senior woman teacher who has been there for me; she counselled and guided me in all aspects of life because I was having the challenge of fitting in at the school with other students. Unlike me, who is an orphan, I advise fellow students to respect and listen to the advice of parents and teachers to live a dignified life. I am so thankful to European Union and Advance Afrika for implementing this activity in our school. It has really changed my life and has boosted my self-esteem and confidence, which helps me express myself well.

## STORIES OF CHANGE DURING OUTREACH VISITS

### AYIKORU CONSULINE

My name is Ayikoru Consuline, and I am 16 years old from Mvara, Arua City. My friendship with the boy who eventually impregnated me began slowly; our families were neighbours. He started giving me small gifts, which made me believe he truly cared for me. This led to secret meetings, and after some time, I discovered I was pregnant. I was unprepared for this outcome but found the courage to inform the boy. To my surprise, he offered no response on the matter. My mother soon learnt of my pregnancy and graciously agreed to care for me. However, the boy fled the village and has not returned. I gave birth to a healthy child who is now 1 year and 2 months old, yet I have received no support from his family despite my mother's attempts to engage them, only facing their aggression and disinterest. I deeply appreciate the Village Health Team (VHT), facilitated by Advance Afrika, for their counselling, nutritional advice, encouragement to vaccinate my child, and support in starting a small grocery business by the roadside. I remain open to any skill development opportunities from Advance Afrika or the government.

### ASIMASIA CYNTHIA

My name is Asimasia Cynthia, and I am 15 years old. I live in Esevu, Nyio, Vurra Sub-County. I was in Primary Four when I became pregnant. I had only known the boy responsible for two months. When my parents found out, they were very unhappy. The pregnancy began to affect me physically and emotionally, so I had to drop out of school. To support myself, I now sell tomatoes at the market to earn a living. I want to thank European Union, Advance Afrika and the VHT for their support and guidance during this difficult time. Before their intervention, I had considered abortion because I felt lost and unsure of what to do. However, through their antenatal sessions, I learnt about the importance of keeping my baby and taking care of my health. I was also encouraged to attend post-natal care to monitor both my baby's health and my own condition. With the support I received, I was able to save part of the facilitation money to buy a few clothes for my baby. I am also very grateful for the items I received, including the mama kit, mosquito net, and bucket. These items ensured I had a safe delivery and protection from malaria. Thank you, Advance Afrika, for giving me hope and helping me prepare for motherhood.

### HAPPY AFOYORWOTH

My name is Happy Afoyorwoth, and I am 17 years old from Arua Hill, Arua City. I got pregnant while I was in Senior Two, after being in a relationship with the person responsible for one year. I am an orphan and have been living with my elder sister, who has been supporting me by paying my school fees and taking care of me. When I conceived, my sister was deeply disappointed and embarrassed, as she felt I had let her down after all the sacrifices she made to give me an education and a chance at a better future. At one point, she considered reporting the matter to the police but decided against it when the man responsible started supporting me and expressed his willingness to marry me officially.

I still dream of continuing my education after delivery, but unfortunately, it won't be possible. My sister's limited resources are now divided since our younger sibling has joined Senior One, and our only provider cannot afford to support both of us in secondary school. As a result, I decided to start doing hairdressing at my elder sister's salon. I am truly grateful to Advance Afrika for

selecting me to take part in their antenatal training. Through this European Union programme, I have learnt so much, including the importance of family planning, proper nutrition during and after pregnancy, and immunisation for my baby. I am especially thankful for the mama kit, mosquito net, and bucket provided for me, which will ensure I have a safe delivery and maintain good hygiene. Advance Afrika also selected me for entrepreneurship training. I hope to master the hairdressing skills and eventually open my own business. I promise to put into practice everything I was taught during the training. Thank you, Advance Afrika, for this opportunity and for giving me hope for a brighter future.

## STORIES OF CHANGE ON THE ENTREPRENEURSHIP SKILLS LEARNT

### LEMON CHRISTINE

I am a teenage mother from Oli C cell in Central Division. I was brought by my aunt to stay in Arua with her. She found another job and left me to stay with the neighbour and life was so hard for me to manoeuvre. I started doing casual work for people to earn a living and that is when I fell in love with a boda boda guy who I stayed with for some time. After conceiving for him, he changed his plans and neglected me. I tried to trace him all in vain up to this time he had never surfaced. I managed to deliver normally from the health facility, but I lacked enough money to take care of me and the baby because where I stayed, they were already strained economically. The VHT facilitated by Advance Afrika visited me during the outreach and counselled me and guided me to take the baby for immunisation up to 5 years. I appreciate the VHT for connecting me to a training program where I learnt shoe making for three months. At the moment I can make some shoes and crafts, but I lack capital to steer myself to another level. I am thankful to Advance Africa for the health education, the counselling services and equipping me with business skills and support I received, and this initiative transformed my life.

## 6. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

SOURCE OF FUNDING	PROJECT NAME	2024
		UGX
<b>RESTRICTED GRANT</b>		
NEMA	Contract for provision of consultancy services	26,995,400
European Union	Community Response Actions to Reduce Teenage Pregnancies in Busoga and West Nile (ATP)	861,019,500
	Now Us For Youth Inclusive Policies and Economic Empowerment West Nile	1,039,901,844
NOREC	Umunthu - Education and Skilling.	105,889,186
<b>Total Restricted Grant</b>		<b>2,033,805,930</b>
<b>UN RESTRICTED GRANTS</b>		
Institutional Development		10,000
		10,000
<b>TOTAL GRANT INCOME</b>		<b>2,033,815,930</b>

# 7. DONORS AND PARTNERS - 2024

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## DONORS

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## PARTNERS

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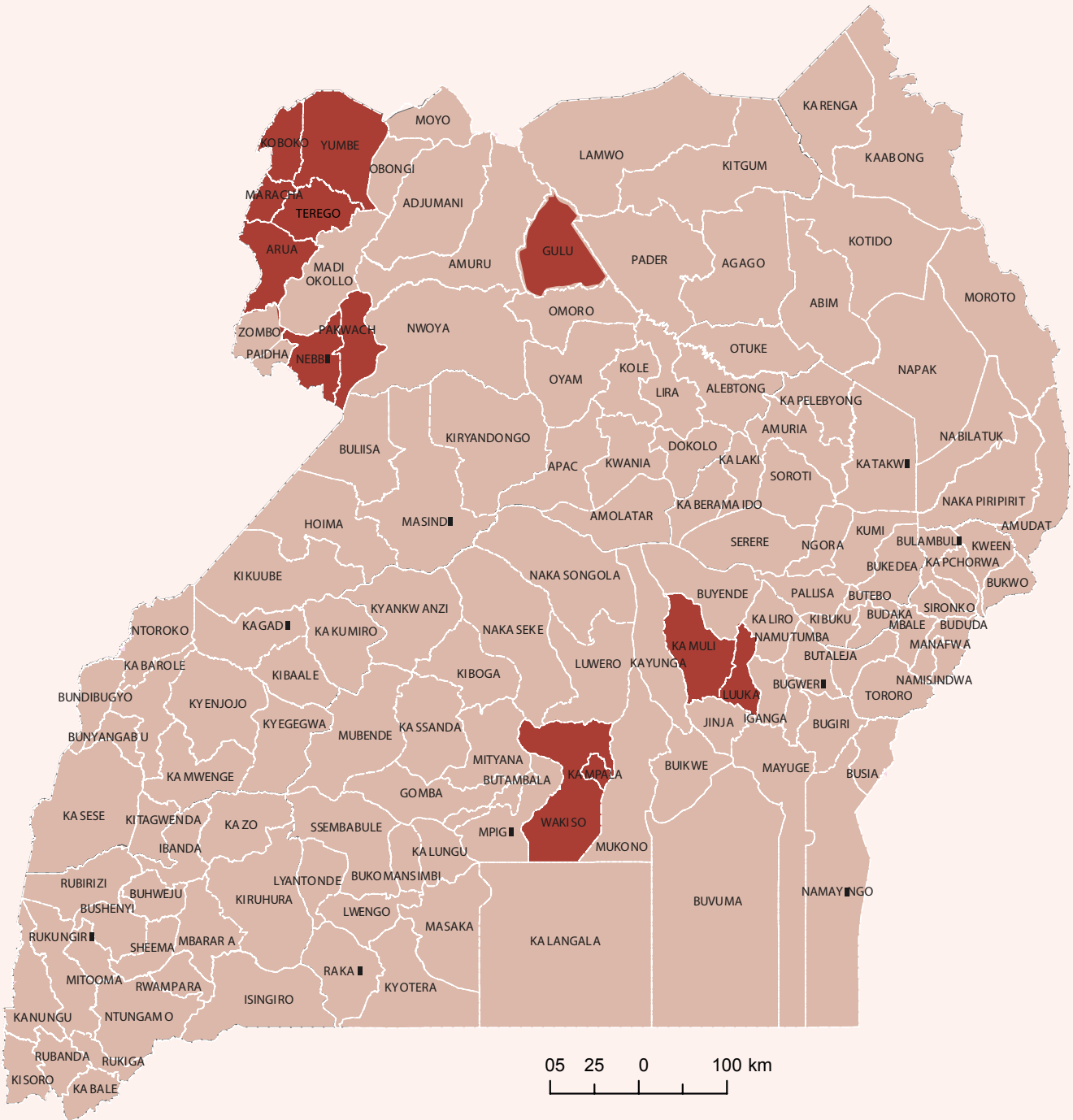
## 8. FUTURE OUTLOOK AND NEW PROJECTS

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*New projects onboarded for the period 2025- 2027 include;*

- 1** **Now Us for Youth-Inclusive Policies and Economic Empowerment West Nile (NU4Y) Action, funded by the European Union**
- 2** **Improving the Economic Resilience of Youth in Central and Northern Uganda (IERY) project, funded by Wilde Ganzen Foundation**
- 3** **Enhancing Youth Inclusion in Governance and Decision-Making project under the “Partnerships on Accountability, Civic Engagement, and Rights” – PACER programme, funded and supported by Denmark (RDE), Sweden, the Netherlands and Ireland.**
- 4** **Umunthu Exchange Project (Empowering Young People in Malawi and Uganda by addressing key vulnerabilities such as trafficking, sexual abuse and exploitation supported by Norwegian Agency for Exchange Cooperation (NOREC)**
- 5** **Mobilisation of women entrepreneurs and youth in Universities, Tertiary and vocational institutions under the Upskilling programme, Young Africa Works, with support from BrighterMonday Uganda**

# 9. WHERE WE WORK



## ADVANCE AFRIKA PRESENCE

- **Central Region:** Kampala and Wakiso
- **Eastern:** Kamuli and Luuka
- **Northern:** Gulu
- **West Nile:** Pakwach, Nebbi, Arua, Terego, Maracha, Koboko and Yumbe

#### **HEAD OFFICE**

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#### **PROJECT OFFICES**

**Gulu:** Plot 29, Acholi Road, Pece Housing Estate, Gulu District.  
**Arua:** Plot 16BAwudele Crescent, Odaa road, Arua City Uganda.

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