

# ANNUAL 2025 REPORT



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# 1 ADVANCE AFRIKA PROFILE



## 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 grassroots organisations, effective management processes and systems, code of conduct/ standards, staff development and team building activities.

# 2

## REMARKS BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

### *Warm greetings from Advance Afrika*

I am pleased to present to you the annual report for 2025. This highlights the significant efforts made in fostering economic empowerment among youth, women, children and enhancing social functionality in various districts and regions. Emphasis is placed on initiatives targeting the prevention and reduction of teenage pregnancies, promotion of youth empowerment opportunities, and involvement in participation in policy and development processes as well as capacity building for grassroots organizations.

Several projects implemented have led to tangible improvements across individual, community, and institutional levels, particularly in the Acholi, Busoga, Central and West Nile regions. Key accomplishments include positively shifting mindsets amongst adolescents and expectant teenagers through active community involvement, increased awareness of girls' rights, enhanced career guidance in schools, and improved parental responsibility have also been observed. Additionally, initiatives aimed at strengthening the economic resilience of youth entrepreneurs have enabled them to acquire essential business skills, thus facilitating access to diverse employment opportunities. Capacity building initiatives have empowered both Advance Afrika and youth organizations, encouraging compliance, promoting good leadership and management practices, and ensuring proper use of resources. This has improved the youth organisation's social status, increased participation, and equipped them to become leaders and youth entities that positively impact their communities.

Advance Afrika has built strong and trusted relationships with a variety of stakeholders. Thus, the level of involvement of relevant key stakeholders will be maintained with donors and partners, including the private sector, authorities and communities, in connection with the latest developments, potential new initiatives and ongoing interventions. Once again, we attribute the achievements attained over the past year to the main beneficiaries, including children in schools, teenage mothers, youth entrepreneurs, and youth organisations who were very willing to participate in our projects.

I would like to express my gratitude to our donors for their support and funding, whose impact has been demonstrated in our growth. I would also like to acknowledge the efforts of our Board of Directors as well as our partners, community structures and staff for their strong cooperation, professionalism and dedication to work. We look forward to a progressive and productive 2026.

**Sharon Atukunda**

**Chief Executive Officer**

# 3 OUR REACH 2025

This section shows a list of projects implemented in 2025 and key targets reached or attained.

## **1 NOW US FOR YOUTH-INCLUSIVE POLICIES AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT WEST NILE (NU4Y) ACTION.**

### **Location**

West Nile (Pakwach, Arua and Terego)

### **Implementing partner**

Advance Afrika and Faraja Africa Foundation

### **Donor**

European Union

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## **2 IMPROVING THE ECONOMIC RESILIENCE OF YOUTH IN CENTRAL AND NORTHERN UGANDA (IERY).**

### **Location**

Acholi (Gulu) and Wakiso (Kira)

### **Implementing partner**

Advance Afrika

### **Donor**

Wilde Ganzen Foundation

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## **3 ENHANCING YOUTH INCLUSION IN GOVERNANCE AND DECISION-MAKING PROJECT UNDER THE “PARTNERSHIPS ON ACCOUNTABILITY, CIVIC ENGAGEMENT, AND RIGHTS” – PACER PROGRAMME.**

### **Location**

West Nile (Pakwach, Maracha, Koboko and Yumbe)

### **Implementing partner**

Faraja Africa Foundation, Open Space Centre and Advance Afrika

### **Donor**

Royal Danish Embassy (RDE), also supported by Sweden, the Netherlands, and Ireland.

**4 UMUNTHU EXCHANGE PROJECT (EMPOWER YOUNG PEOPLE IN MALAWI AND UGANDA BY ADDRESSING KEY VULNERABILITIES SUCH AS TRAFFICKING, SEXUAL ABUSE, AND EXPLOITATION).**

**Location**

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

**Implementing partner**

Chance for Change and Advance Afrika

**Donor**

Norwegian Agency for Exchange Cooperation (NOREC)

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**5 MOBILISATION OF WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS AND YOUTH IN UNIVERSITIES, TERTIARY AND VOCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS UNDER THE UPSKILLING PROGRAMME, YOUNG AFRICA WORKS.**

**Location**

West Nile (Pakwach, Nebbi, Zombo, Madi Okollo, Arua, and Terego districts)

**Implementing partner**

Advance Afrika

**Donor**

BrighterMonday Uganda

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**6 COMMUNITY RESPONSE ACTIONS TO REDUCE TEENAGE PREGNANCIES IN BUSOGA AND WEST NILE (ATP) ACTION.**

**Location**

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

**Implementing partner**

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

**Donor**

European Union

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**8 INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT TOWARDS ADVANCE AFRIKA'S COMMUNICATION AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS.**

**Location**

Kampala

**Implementing partner**

Advance Afrika

**Donor**

Bread for the World

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**7 ENHANCING THE LIVELIHOOD OF YOUNG SINGLE MOTHERS IN RURAL COMMUNITIES OF RUHAMA, ITOJO NTUNGAMO DISTRICT.**

**Location**

Ntungamo

**Implementing partner**

Advance Afrika -Former Norec Participant

**Donor**

Norwegian Agency for Exchange Cooperation (NOREC)

# SOI: TRANSFORMING VULNERABLE INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES

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 **8,750** ADOLESCENTS

**Over 8,750 adolescents in school attended awareness sessions on the rights and duties of children.**

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 **925**  
STUDENTS

 **26**  
SCHOOLS

**925 students trained and participated in music, dance and drama (MDD) in 40 schools in Busoga and West Nile region with messages on SRHR and action against teenage pregnancies. The schools were equipped with traditional musical instruments, costumes, and rechargeable speakers**

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 **40**  
REPRESENTATIVES

 **1,370**  
HOUSEHOLDS

**40 representatives of the Fathers/Mothers Union, and model parents engaged in community sensitisation, provided specialised counselling services to teenage mothers and households. A total of 1,370 households were reached, focused on enhancing positive parenting practices.**

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 **100** EXPECTANT GIRLS'  
TEENAGERS

**100 expectant girls' teenagers received antenatal care (ANC) training sessions, mama kits and with all the young mothers (100%) delivered in health facilities.**

## SO2: BUSINESS AND JOB CREATION



411 YOUTH  
ENTREPRENEURS

183  
FEMALE

228  
MALE

411 youth entrepreneurs (183F, 228M) trained in business planning and management skills, from Acholi, West Nile and Wakiso sub regions.



50 YOUTH DIGITAL  
AMBASSADOR

14  
FEMALE

36  
MALE

50 youth digital ambassadors (14F, 36M) trained on digital marketing in order to support the youth entrepreneurs embrace digital marketing in their businesses.



05

FIVE BUSINESS  
COMPLIANCE SESSIONS



202

YOUTH  
ENTREPRENEURS

Five business compliance sessions with Uganda Revenue Authority (URA), Uganda Registration Service Bureau (URSB), and Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) were organised, and reached 202 youth entrepreneurs in Gulu, Wakiso, Pakwach, Arua and Terego districts.



4,700

YOUTH  
MOBILISED



26

LEARNING  
INSTITUTIONS

In collaboration with BrighterMonday Uganda, 4,700 youth mobilised from 26 learning institutions in West Nile, trained on soft skills such as creativity and critical thinking, employability skills, personal effectiveness and time management, CV writing, and interview preparation. Additionally, 2,954 women entrepreneurs involved in small-scale businesses mobilised and trained on entrepreneurship, financial management, and regulatory considerations.

## SO3: ADVOCACY AND CREATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

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### CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS

Engagement meetings with cultural and religious institutions were held in Busoga and West Nile regions to address teenage pregnancies and promote behavioural change among young girls and boys.

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### YOUTH POLICY HACKATHONS

West Nile Youth policy hackathons were held in the districts of Pakwach, Maracha, Koboko and Yumbe.

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### FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

Promoting local philanthropy – West Nile Giving Football Tournament held.

## SO4: INSTITUTIONAL GROWTH AND CAPACITY BUILDING

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### DATA PROTECTION

Advance Afrika staff capacities enhanced on data protection.

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Norec participants boast sports programs contributing to combating child abuse and sexual exploitation.

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### 14 YOUTH ORGANISATION

14 grassroots youth organisation underwent an organisational capacity assessment and were trained on governance and leadership.

# 4 PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

Aligned to the strategic goals of the organisation, this section highlights 2025 achievements from the projects implemented, challenges, the impact, lessons learnt and success stories.



## S01

# Transforming Vulnerable Individuals and Communities



## Conducting awareness sessions on the rights and duties of children, the ABC model and the legal consequences of sexual abuse

Under the ATP action, over 8,750 adolescents with an average attendance of 250 students per session attended the awareness sessions. Key topics included recognising and respecting transitions in adolescence, drug misuse, legal implications of sexual assault, unsafe abortion risks, and birth registration. The sessions were interactive and guest speakers stressed the importance of effective communication between parents, teachers, and students.

During the reporting period, the awareness sessions activity focused on students in candidate classes on the day of the briefing, that is: Primary 7, Senior 4 and 6 students. Key speakers included the district Education Officers for Guidance and Special Needs, role model students in universities and technical institutions, the district education officer and church leaders in some schools. For example, in Arua, Niwamanya Zaverio, the Prime Minister MUNI University, was selected as a role model to speak to the candidates. *He encouraged students to stay focused on their studies and appreciate all the support provided by their parents in their education. He noted that not everyone can make it to university. However, there are many vocational and tertiary institutions that offer good technical courses for skills development. He gave an example of*

*himself, how he could not make it to A-level due to financial constraints, but slowly, with patience and determination, forged his way through a vocational institution, learning carpentry. Now he owns his own carpentry workshop and decided to return and finish his education.* Additionally, the Arua Education Officer for Guidance and Special Needs, Ms. Dilea Annet, urged parents to be actively involved in their children's affairs to understand their needs and provide for them. She encouraged parents to offer SRHRs education, and cautioned them that sexuality education was no longer a taboo, rather a necessity for the wellbeing of all children. The education officer encouraged teachers to always play their ethical roles while nurturing students and urged learners to always respect their teachers and parents, as disciplined learners are always successful. Church representatives that attended in other schools prayed for the students.

However, the activity was affected by the school strikes, led by the government teachers teaching arts subjects during second term holidays. Some schools did not open until the time when candidates had just a few days left to begin their final exams. Despite all this, through the action, the awareness sessions provided students with information on making good decisions, practising better hygiene, avoiding risky behaviours, increasing their confidence and self-esteem. Also, the shared responsibility between parents and educators for protecting children's rights was emphasised.



**Mrs Dilea Annet the Education Officer Central Division sensitizing the learners on their rights and duties at Arua Public SS.**



**Mrs Asiru Victoria the Probation Officer addressing the learners on the consequences of sexual abuse at Arua Prisons Primary School**



**District Probation Officers speaking to learners on consequences of sexual abuse in Busoga.**



## **Supporting music, dance and drama competitions**

The action promoted music, dance and drama (MDD) in 40 schools, which involved 925 students trained and participating (125 in Y2025, 800 in Y2024) in different drama performances directly and with the attendance of almost 10,000 students in both regions. Other stakeholders included the local officials and education leaders of the districts, such as the Senior Education Officers, district school inspectors, head teachers, school teachers, the project community structures and project officers in Arua, Nebbi, Kamuli and

Luck districts. In 2024, the schools received traditional music instruments such as drums, a xylophone, shakers, a tube fiddle, costumes, and rechargeable speakers. Drama concerts such as poems, folk songs and cultural dances were performed in the schools, which brought out messages on SRHR and actions against teenage pregnancy.

The activity equipped pupils with knowledge and skills in creative and therapeutic outlets. The students received training on how to use musical instruments and in traditional dances. The themes focused on the awareness of teenage pregnancies by fusing entertainment with

powerful teachings about responsibility and education. These events highlighted the value of incorporating MDD into the curriculum as a tool for talent development and cultural preservation, while also showcasing creativity through skits, dances, and folk songs addressing societal challenges. The pupils, head teachers and parents appreciated the intervention and noted that MDD in schools was abandoned, yet it is an activity that helps

with transmission of knowledge to the learners. The learners, teachers and parents got a deeper understanding of what teenage pregnancy is and what the problems involved in it are. This added impact on the message. The head teachers were impressed with the interest the students showed in participating in the training sessions and by the end of the year, they realised that, because of such activities, it sparked excitement among the pupils who kept in school and had an interest in studies.



**Pupils of Balawoli Primary School in Kamuli district learning how to play music instruments**



**Pupils of Bukanga Primary School in Luuka district dancing masoga cultural dance**

## Supporting the fathers'/Mothers' Union and model parents to conduct positive parenting sessions

40 representatives of the Father's/Mothers Union, model parents and cultural leaders already engaged in community sensitisation, provided specialised counselling services to teenage mothers and households. The community structures conducted monthly sessions during the reporting period, reaching a total of 1,370 households, focused on enhancing positive parenting practices. The sessions encouraged attendance by both parents, including partners of teenage mothers still present in their lives. Key discussion topics covered were family relations and communication, foundational parenting skills, parental self-care and self-esteem, child protection, conflict resolution, and family budgeting. A positive discipline approach was employed throughout the sessions, promoting behaviour correction strategies such as providing needs, rewarding acceptable behaviour, teaching mutual respect, involving children in decision-making, and fostering warmth and affection.

The parenting sessions facilitated self-reflection among parents, enhancing their empathy and patience towards their children's behavioural changes. Many parents experienced a shift in attitudes, leading to increased confidence and reduced stress as they engaged more openly within their community structures and improved communication with their children. The action successfully reintegrated teenage mothers into their communities following several positive parental sessions, fostering a sense of responsibility in both parents and teenagers. These interactions led to reconciliatory outcomes, where parents were able to forgive their children and commit to providing ongoing guidance and support. The sessions further emphasised the development of a three-year family vision to help guide weekly savings, showcasing transformative personal growth. The overall impact of the parenting sessions particularly strengthened family relations and fostered healthy relationships essential for child development, effectively sensitising the community and promoting a collaborative parenting approach.



Model parents, members of the fathers and mothers' union conduct positive parenting sessions at the teenage mother's homes in communities of Busoga and West Nile

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

The ATP action continued to facilitate antenatal care (ANC) training sessions for 100 expectant girls' teenagers, selected during the VHT outreach in the reporting period. The trainings (ANC sessions) took place at Namasagali Health Centre III and Balawoli Health Centre III in Kamuli District; Bukanga Health Centre III and Bukooma Health Centre III in Luuka District; Oli Health Centre IV and Vurra Health Centre III in Arua; and Koch Health Centre II and St. Luke Angal Hospital in Nebbi District. These sessions, led by experienced government health workers (midwives, nurses, VHTs and Health Assistants), utilised the MoH guidelines. The ANC sessions resulted in increased awareness among the expectant girls regarding early health-seeking behaviours, prenatal cleanliness, prevention

of mother-to-child HIV transmission, nutrition, birth readiness, and vaccination. Furthermore, they received psycho-social support, guidance on the importance of adequate rest, exclusive breastfeeding, and partner participation in ANC. The expectant girls and teenage mothers appreciated the action and, the health workers further appreciated the European Union for supporting the government in fulfilling its mandate through organising activities that enable teenage mothers to access maternal health care, which will contribute to good indicators such as a reduced maternal mortality rate in the respective districts. At the end of the ANC sessions, each expectant girl received a Mama Kit, a mosquito net, a bucket or basin. The activity ensured that the young teenage mothers and their babies have clean, infection-free deliveries. The activity ensured that the young teenage mothers and their babies have clean, infection-free deliveries.



A midwife in Bukoova Health Center 111 in Luuka district training teenage mothers during their antenatal visits



Adolescent mothers attend ANC, nutrition and hygiene in Balawoli Health Center 111



Expectant teenagers attend ANC sessions in Koch Health Center III,



The beneficiaries pose for a group photo with the City Health Officer after receiving the safe delivery kits



The expectant teenagers at St. Luke Angal Hospital pose for a group photo after receiving the safe delivery kits

**S02**

## **Business Growth and Job Creation**



## Training youth enterprises in business planning and management

411 youth entrepreneurs from West Nile, Acholi and Wakiso sub-regions underwent training in business planning and management. 102 youth entrepreneurs (40F, 62M) from Packwach, Arua and Terego districts were trained under the NU4Y Action while 309 youth entrepreneurs (143F, 166M) from Gulu and Kampala districts benefited under the IERY project. The training topics focused on; business mindset & entrepreneurship (core principles, identifying internal and external risks, understanding resilience strategies and coping mechanisms for small-scale businesses), business modelling, business planning and analysis, marketing, financial management for MSMEs, and mentorship and financial oversight for Micro-Grants (principles of business mentorship, steps in guiding youth and women to access and use micro-grants and how to ensure accountability). Whereas a variation was observed in the educational backgrounds and pre-existing knowledge levels of the youth entrepreneurs, the training was segmented into beginner and intermediate groups, and facilitators used highly participatory, practical exercises with real-life examples from the region/district context while delivering the sessions in the local language to ensure all participants could engage meaningfully. This also included hands-on exercises in business planning and enterprise analysis. The youth were encouraged to explore new skill options such as digital skills, small-scale agriculture practices, tourism and were inspired to do so. They were encouraged to promote youth to youth business apprenticeships, which creates an opportunity for more young people to learn from each other as they grow in experience.



**Youth entrepreneurs during business planning and management training.**

During the trainings, the District Community Development Officers (DCDOs), and District Commercial Officers (DCOs) participated throughout the sessions, demonstrating strong institutional support for youth economic empowerment. Thus, the involvement of district authorities increased visibility, credibility, and local ownership, laying a firm foundation for follow-up mentorship, linkages to financing, and policy support for youth-led enterprises. This activity directly contributed to the output by building the core competencies necessary for accessing markets and ensuring business compliance. Overall, the participants appreciated the training for improving their critical thinking, negotiation skills in planning, finance and market, boosting their confidence and problem-solving skills and being able to improve their business processes and performance.



**District Community Development officers of Terego District and other Commercial officers during the session**

## Promoting small business digital marketing

50 youth digital ambassadors (14F, 36M) active under the NU4Y Action and IERY Project were trained on digital marketing in order to support the youth entrepreneurs embrace digital marketing in their businesses. In collaboration with the Faraja Africa Foundation and technical digital experts, a six-day physical and virtual training in digital marketing was held. These covered subjects like understanding the digital landscape, email marketing (building email lists, creating email marketing campaigns, writing effective email copy and subject line), social media marketing (focusing on Facebook, Instagram, X, WhatsApp Business and LinkedIn), developing marketing plans, content creation and planning, online advocacy, and data security and protection. The sessions were very interactive and participatory. The goal was to get the participants to practice what they would be doing while assisting the youth businesses with their operations. This included giving the digital ambassadors smartphones for effective communication and improving interactions with young businesses and their customers on online platforms.



**Certified and ready to go digital! Digital Ambassadors from Terego district (Left) and Pakwach districts (right) proudly display their certificates after successfully completing training on online marketing.**

Thereafter, the digital ambassadors were facilitated to follow up youth entrepreneurs each. Significant gaps identified in the youth enterprises regarding digital adoption included; limited of structured digital marketing, posting schedules and branding were irregular and unplanned, no formal mechanism to collect or utilise customer feedback, minimal level of available platform insights for decision-making and over reliance on walk-ins. The digital ambassadors guided the youth entrepreneurs and the benefits for the service-based businesses (salon, hairdresser, restaurant) derived greater value from content creation and direct customer engagement strategies. While product-based businesses (clothing, poultry) benefited more from e-commerce tactics and digital inventory management, the youth businesses have demonstrated great progress in online activity, brand consistency and customer engagement. These are now using the platform for professional customer relations, promotions, sharing a product catalogue of services, confirming bookings, sharing product visuals such as images and videos, which have helped build brand awareness and improve content marketing of their products and services. Digital marketing has also unlocked new growth opportunities, expanded customer reach, improved operational efficiency, and youth entrepreneurs appreciated the professional online presence of their businesses.

### Conducting and supporting compliance sessions on market standards and business regulations

Five business compliance sessions were organised and held in Gulu, Pakwach, Arua, Terego and Wakiso. A total of 202 youth entrepreneurs actively participated in the one-day business clinic. Officials from the Uganda Revenue Authority (URA), Uganda Registration Service Bureau (URSB), and Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) led the sessions. The discussions focused on taxpayer data and compliance history, tax laws and requirements, audit processes and implications for non-compliance, business registration procedures, certification and

licensing requirements, and regulatory standards governing product and service quality. These practical sessions enabled participants to engage directly with regulatory bodies, ask questions, and gain clarity on compliance expectations.

As a result, youth entrepreneurs have gained an improved understanding of penalties for non-compliance, standards enforcement, requirements for product certification, and procedures for business registration and licensing. Participants appreciated the guidance received from URSB on regulatory obligations, alongside recommendations from UNBS for product approval and quality assurance. The sessions enhanced the preparedness of youth entrepreneurs to formalise their businesses, improve accountability, and access broader markets. The agencies also expressed interest in implementing more educational programs for their services. By linking youth businesses to statutory institutions and demystifying regulatory processes, the activity contributed to building a culture of compliance, improved governance, and strengthened enterprise sustainability within the region.



**Ms. Sarah (1) a representative from URA, Mr. David (1) from URSB, educating Youth entrepreneurs on Entrepreneurship and Business management during training sessions**

## Partnership with BrighterMonday Uganda under the Young Africa Works (YAW)

Since March 2025, Advance Afrika partnered with BrighterMonday Uganda (BMU) as a mobilisation partner across six districts in the West Nile Region, namely Pakwach, Nebbi, Zombo, Madi Okollo, Arua, and Terego in an upskilling programme. The upskilling programme, supported by the Mastercard Foundation under the Young Africa Works (YAW) is designed to equip 150,000 young people (aged 18–35 years) with essential soft and entrepreneurial skills and place at least 40,000 young people in dignified and fulfilling employment.

Advance Afrika successfully mobilised approximately 4,700 youth from 26 different learning institutions, comprising individuals at the certificate, diploma, and degree levels. These participants subsequently underwent training provided by BMU, focusing on soft skills such as creativity and critical thinking, employability skills, emotional intelligence

and team work, personal effectiveness and time management, CV writing, and interview preparation. Additionally, Advance Afrika mobilised 2,954 women entrepreneurs involved in small-scale businesses, including (10%) displaced persons and (10%) persons with disabilities. The women received training on various entrepreneurship modules covering essential topics such as market research and analysis, financial management, operations management, marketing and sales, regulatory considerations and developing a business plan. The participants expressed their satisfaction and appreciation for the skills and knowledge gained through the program.

Advance Afrika has entered into a new partnership with BrighterMonday Uganda to host a job centre at our Arua office premises as part of the Gen-Kazi project implemented by BrighterMonday Uganda. The job centre will serve as a community-based hub to support youth employability, provide access to job listings, conduct career guidance sessions using AI career tools and facilitate job placements.



**Brighter Monday Uganda and Advance Afrika launching a supportive youth employability program at Gulu Job centre**

# S03

## Advocacy and Creative Communication



## Engaging cultural and religious institutions to promote behavioural change among young girls and boys

Under the ATP action, engagement meetings were organised focusing on addressing teenage pregnancy through behavioural change initiatives for both girls and boys. During the reporting period, key representatives included leaders from cultural institutions such as Obwa Kyabazinga and Lugbara, religious leaders including priests and imams, Health Department officials, probation officers, and representatives from community structures such as model parents, Village Health Teams (VHTs), and youth organisations. The meetings provided a platform for Advance Afrika to share the progress of action taken. During the engagement meetings, VHTs and model parents reported issues identified in the outreach activities, while youth organisations, such as Amani Initiative from Arua and Aids Education Group for Youth (AEGY) in Kamuli, presented their efforts in promoting girls' rights, including teenage mothers. Key concerns highlighted at the family level were widespread family conflicts and parents' abandonment, which led to high anxiety levels, feelings of worthlessness, and financial strain. At the community level, issues included excessive alcohol consumption, access to unregulated information, and food insecurity.

Religious representatives committed to continually inspiring young people and their communities with messages of hope. They appreciated the action for the value of collaboration with family-based structures, particularly the fathers and mothers' unions, who have been providing counselling to households with child parents. During the discussions in Kamuli, it was observed that the institution of the Kyabazinga was addressing teenage pregnancies by forming partnerships with various organisations to reduce its prevalence in the Busoga region. Participants urged government representatives to enhance public awareness of parenting programs under the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MoGLSD) and to collaborate with Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), particularly local organisations implementing such interventions. Acknowledgement was given to the European Union for their support in governmental efforts. Stakeholders affirmed their commitment to continuing collaboration to reshape the mindsets of parents and young people to mitigate teenage pregnancy rates in their regions, even after the conclusion of the project. The meetings facilitated cultural and religious organisations in identifying synergies to address the specific needs of vulnerable children, particularly teenage mothers, and to promote a greater awareness of their responsibilities to protect these individuals within their communities.



Engagement meeting with Mothers/Fathers union, model parents, and project partners including HEDCHE in Luuka district



The project team pose for a group photo together with fathers/mothers' union representatives, and religious leaders at the end of the engagement meeting in Luuka District.

## Organising West Nile Youth Policy Hackathon

In the last quarter of the year, under the Youth Inclusion in Governance and Decision-making project, Advance Afrika organised West Nile Youth policy hackathons in the districts of Pakwach, Maracha, Koboko and Yumbe where stakeholders were given feedback from the baseline evaluation for enhancing youth inclusion in governance and decision making. A total of 41 participants (12F, 29M) including LCIII Chairpersons, DCDOs, youth leaders, representatives of special interest groups, women councilors, national youth councillors, youth organisations, digital space influencers and Uganda Police representatives, actively engaged in analysing development challenges identified in baseline study, and creating innovative solutions and policies to strengthen youth inclusion in governance. The hackathon was participatory and interactive. The Project Coordinator Faraja Africa Foundation, Ms. Dolly Ajok presented the baseline evaluation outcomes and Advance Afrika moderated the collaborative proposal of innovative policy solutions while tagging the power to voices App. The participants were also trained in AI (Artificial Intelligence) usage. To promote inclusiveness, the activity involved a sign language interpreter.

During the engagement, open discussions were held and stakeholders were welcomed to give their views and suggest policy reforms

which were documented. Some of the key reforms proposed include more training in civic education, institutional debates and interventions from civil society organisations that will help impart skills of leadership and build confidence among the youth; empowering and sustaining youth councils as a vital linkage between youth and duty bearers; continued positive mindset change towards persons with disability; conduct more leadership trainings (empowering more female representatives) to boost advocacy and confidence among youth groups and youth leaders; continued strengthening of youth organisations in organisation skills such as project management including stakeholder management, reporting and compliance; carry out mentorship and placement/ internship programs for youth leaders, youth organisations and student representatives under UNSA, which will shape behavioural change and create positive mindset and inclusiveness. The participants appreciated the training in AI usage as it opened a way to factual checking, personal learning and cognitive development. The local council chairpersons appreciated Advance Afrika for the inclusivity in the activity. Additionally, the representatives of special interest groups and women advocated for a positive mindset change towards persons with disabilities and representation in decision-making to fully explore their full potential in leadership.



Participant in a group photo after the West Nile Youth Policy Hackathon

## West Nile Giving Football Tournament

On August 8, 2025, the Paridi Stadium in Adjumani hosted a significant West Nile football tournament, a highlight of the annual Philanthropy Week organized by CivSource-Africa and the Uganda National NGO Forum. The event aimed to promote local philanthropy through the participation of teams like Advance Afrika, Score Beyond, Entebbe Corporate League, and Watoto Wasoka. Various stakeholders, including the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer of Adjumani district, Sports Officers, and the executive team of Right to Play, contributed to the event, which attracted local leaders, youth, and community members. The tournament's objectives included fostering sportsmanship, raising awareness about teenage pregnancy, and encouraging community support. A total of 40 participants, divided into 8 teams composed of boys and girls, engaged in various activities that spanned football games, tree planting, team gift exchanges, and donations to local

orphanages. The teams consisted of Advance Afrika (both boys and girls), Score Beyond Leadership II (both boys and girls), and Sparta 09 (boys and girls). The football matches followed a round-robin structure, allowing each team to have 7 players and unlimited substitutions throughout the games. Advance Afrika had the youngest teams, with representatives from Eruba Primary School for girls and Arua Prisons School for boys. In terms of performance, Advance Afrika team emerged in 3rd position whereby the girls' team had one win out of three games, securing 3 points, while the boys' team achieved 4 points through one win and one draw. At the conclusion of the tournament, both young teams were awarded footballs, and all participants received medals. The event provided a platform for the youth to showcase their football prowess, build confidence, and acquire crucial life skills within a nurturing competitive environment.



A group photo of pupils and teachers of Eruba Primary School (red) and Arua Prisons Primary School (green) who represented Advance Afrika in the West Nile Giving Football Tournament in Adjumani district.

# S04

## Institutional Growth and Capacity Building



## Capacity-building on communication and digitalisation strategy for Advance Afrika

The partnership with Bread for the World (BftW), through the deployment of a Public Relations and Advocacy professional, Dr. Mark Degner, strengthened the capacity of Advance Africa staff and project stakeholders in the communication and digitalisation strategy. Dr. Degner developed communication strategies,

tools and procedures and conducted training for management and staff on how to collect and write best practices and success stories with the aim of fundraising, enhancing advertising and public awareness. He trained the staff on data protection and supported action-oriented research studies in cooperation with Advance Afrika. This has enhanced the advocacy efforts, communication and visibility of the work conducted by Advance Afrika.



Dr. Mark and Advance Afrika staff during Capacity-building on communication and digitalisation training at head office in Kampala.

## Partnership with Chance for Change-Norec Exchange Program

Advance Afrika, in collaboration with Chance for Change in Malawi under the Norwegian Exchange Cooperation (NOREC) program, engaged two youth Norec participants (Anne Chinkhandwe and Richard Morton) from Malawi to combat child abuse and sexual exploitation through community-focused sports initiatives. The participants implemented sports programs in two schools in Busoga and seven in West Nile, providing sports equipment to Angal Boys & Girls Primary Schools, Arua Prison

Primary School, Eruba Primary School, Bukanga Primary School, and Namukubembe Primary School. They organized peer-learning sessions to encourage students to share their experiences and discuss reporting processes related to abuse. The sports activities facilitated open conversations about child abuse and sexual exploitation, fostering an environment where students felt safe to express their concerns. The Norec participants urged the school administrations to utilise sports for talent development, create safe spaces for youth, enhance confidence and self-esteem, while raising awareness about teenage issues.



**(UP)The head teacher of Bukanga primary school Mr. kulanema and NOREC participants gifting pupils after the match in Luuka District. (Below) Mr. Kemis, the Education Officer of Arua City and CEO, Advance Afrika, together with Ms. Dilea, Officer in charge of Children with Special Needs Arua district, greeting players before the game at Eruba primary school Arua District.**

## **Post Exchange Initiative - Enhancing the Livelihood of Young Single Mothers in Rural Communities of Ruhama, Itojo Ntungamo District.**

A former Norec participant (2023) and staff of Advance Afrika, Justus Kansime received a 5,000 US dollar grant from the Post Exchange Initiative, a support scheme for former Norec exchange participants. The Post-Exchange Initiative helps former participants use the knowledge they gained during their exchange to create positive changes in their communities. Justus, crafted a project that aimed to support the livelihood improvement of young single mothers by providing them with skills, resources, and support to enhance their economic well-being and overall quality of life. The project was implemented in six months in five villages mainly: Mishenyi, Mpanga, Ruhanga, Kakiizi, and Nyamuhani in Ruhaama subcounty, Ntungamo

district. Kansime Justus worked closely with district local government, community structures, and private actors, relevant to the project to address gender-specific needs in the selected communities. The project ably reached out to 100 single mothers who completed training in entrepreneurship, financial skills, climate-friendly agriculture and health. The training in agriculture and seed distribution improved food access and crop yields. Support groups were created, and several mothers joined saving and loan groups, increasing their economic safety and social support. Additionally, health and life-skills training increased knowledge of maternal health, child nutrition and reproductive health. More women now use family planning and prioritise hygiene and mental well-being. The project succeeded because the young mothers' commitment to improving their own lives and their children's future.



**Young single mothers in Ntungamo district listening attentively to project officers during the trainings.**

## Capacity assessment of the youth organisations and structures

Under the Youth Inclusion in Governance and Decision-Making project and NU4Y Action, Advance Afrika had entry meetings with the district leadership that enhanced the collaborative relationship between the two parties and provided guidance in the identification and selection of 14 active youth organisations from Pakwach (3), Arua (2), Terego (2), Maracha (2), Koboko (2) and Yumbe (3). Out of which, four are women-led organisations and one youth organisation focused on persons with disabilities. The 14 active youth organisations successfully underwent an organisational capacity assessment. The capacity assessment of each organisation was conducted to report a clear and comprehensive understanding of the institutional capacities and performance to inform the design of targeted capacity development interventions aimed at strengthening the youth organisation's ability to contribute meaningfully to youth inclusion in governance and decision-making processes. The capacity assessment focused on the youth organisation's governance and leadership structures (including, levels of transparency, accountability, participation and decision-making), financial management systems and internal controls (budgeting,

expenditure tracking, financial reporting, and compliance) and review of the program management capacities (including planning, monitoring, evaluation, and learning, adaptive management and community engagement mechanisms).

The activity was conducted in collaboration with technical experts/ external consultants who applied a participatory approach to ensure inclusivity, objectivity and relevance. This involved a detailed desk review of organisational documents, and informant interviews with board members, management, and project staff of the organisations. The findings revealed that the organisations possess committed leadership and good community-based programming relations. However, areas requiring further development include strengthening financial systems, formalising internal polices, documentation, enhancing PMEAL capabilities, resource mobilisation, and investing in staff training, among others. The assessment concluded with a set of targeted recommendations for each organisation aimed at supporting the development of actionable capacity enhancement plans. The capacity assessment reports were shared with all the organisations and taken through the findings during the training of youth organisations in governance and leadership.



**District leaders during the session of Capacity assessment of the youth organisations and structures in West Nile.**



## Conduct training of youth organisations and groups in governance and leadership

Advance Afrika organised a three-day training session for youth groups and organisations in governance and decision making in Koboko and Pakwach districts respectively. A total of 54 participants (18F, 36M) were trained, who included the management teams from the youth organisations (Executive Directors, Finance and Program managers), representatives of youth structures youth councillors, women councillors, UNSA student representatives, the district youth leaders and project staff of the Advance Afrika. The training focused on the feedback from the organisation's capacity assessment reports, leadership roles, management strategies, governance systems, collaborations and rethinking organisational sustainability. This applied a blended learning

approach, including experience sharing, interactive practical exercises with feedback, group work, case studies and presentations and coaching on relevant skills. The key highlights of the training were the increased participation and inclusion of the UNSA student representatives in developing constructive approaches to ensure their voices are heard. The participants appreciated the practical experience sessions in budgeting and resource management (enabling them to plan, allocate and monitor funds effectively), learning the best collaboration practices and new programming models and fundraising approaches. Lessons learnt were that effective governance requires all partners to be accountable to one another as this promotes shared responsibility, leading to the achievement of the common goal. Youth participation will continue to improve when governance concepts are simplified.



Participants active in group brainstorming sessions during the trainings in Koboko and Pakwach

The trainings were officiated by the LCV Chairperson Koboko, Hon. Mambu Asirafu and the Senior DCDO, Mr. Patrick in Pakwach. The LCV Chairperson, Koboko, in his remarks, testified that he came into leadership at the age of 33 years as the youngest district chairperson ever and has continued being unopposed. He encouraged youth leaders to participate in planning and budget conferences and raise the issues that affect youth and the community. He urged them to change their

attitudes by focusing on knowledge/ expertise rather than being money-minded and also inspired youth leaders to be focused and stand on their decisions. Finally, the Senior DCDO Pakwach, appreciated the support of the PACER Programme for prioritising the leadership and management skills of young leaders, which will guide them in making better decisions as well as equipping the youth organisations with resource mobilisation skills for sustainability of the community initiative.



LCV Chairperson of Koboko, Hon. Mambu Asirafu sharing remarks during the training in Koboko

## Supervision, monitoring and project management meetings

Partner meetings have been held in the reporting period with the various project partners and stakeholders such as the district offices focused on the partners' implementation progress, work plans and budgets, key learnings, best practices and action step. Additionally, all our donors or development partners continued to visit our works, engaged with the project beneficiaries such as expectant teenage, youth organisations, youth entrepreneurs, digital ambassadors and the implementing partners, provided continuous clarity on project operations and technical guidance that have contributed to the smooth implementation of the projects and ensured improvements in our management systems. The donors included the EU delegation to Uganda team led by the EU Operations Advisor for Civil Society and Development, Ms. Elizabeth Ongom, along

with Team Leader for Governance and Social Inclusion, Ms. Karolina Andrzejewska, Ms. Jackie Khisa and Youth Sounding Board Ambassadors visited the 2 EU actions on January 15, 2025 and June 24, 2025. The RDE PACER program team led by Bua Job Jonatha, Martin Lutaaya and Filip Foldrip visited Advance Afrika in Arua on 16th July and the head office in Kampala on August 10th, 2026. On the 27th August 2025, Advance Afrika hosted Wilde Ganzen Foundation Director, Mr. Kees de Jong, and Blue Ambition Fund Program Coordinator, Ms. Esly van Dam, in Gulu district, who interacted with youth entrepreneurs. Additionally, the Norec Programme Advisors, Ms Rakai Bihi and Mr. Edward Jada on the November 24th 2025 visited our Gulu office and held interactions with the Norec participants, Advance Afrika appreciates the regular, timely feedback as well as the ongoing guidance and advice on the implementation of the projects from the donors.



**EU Team Leader for Governance and Social Inclusion, Ms. Karolina Andrzejewska, EU Operations Advisor CSOs, Ms. Elizabeth Ongom and Youth Sounding Board Ambassador, Dr. Michael Jjemba., interact with young expectant girls and teenage mothers in Kamuli district.**



**EU Delegation to Uganda representatives, Ms Elizabeth Ongom and Ms. Jackie Khisa (L), together with Advance Afrika and HEDCHE Management team pose for a group photo with teenage mothers at HEDCHE offices in Nebbi districtt.**



**Caroline Aber, a youth entrepreneur making chalking, showcasing her work to the team from Wilde Ganzen Foundation Director and Program Coordinator for the Blue Ambition Fund during their visit in Gulu district.**



**RDE program advisors, Filip Foldrip (first left) Bua Job Jonatha (third left), and Martin Lutaaya (second right), together with FAF project coordinator, Jolly Ajok (centre) and AA project team at Advance Afrika Head office, Kampala.**



**Norec Programme Advisors -Rakia and Edward meeting with participants at Advance Afrika Gulu office.**



**Norec Participants making presentation to the Norec Programme Advisors during the monitoring visit at Advance Afrika Gulu office.**

## II. CHALLENGES

The different projects faced high community and stakeholder expectations that exceeded available budgets. For instance, local leaders requested some of the activities to be extended to other sub counties, beneficiaries such as schools requested more support such as meals to be provided to learners in schools. However, several meetings and dialogues were held with local district leaders and the community clarifying the objectives, scope and methodology of the projects implemented.

At institutional level, we continue to observe a shift in donor priorities due to geopolitical tensions (international conflicts, trade disputes, and alliance shifts), and economic uncertainty, and the high risks associated with over-reliance on a single source of funding. This means Advance Afrika has got to broaden their funding base beyond a limited number of donors to ensure continuity and financial resilience. However, this is a gradual process.

### III. LESSONS LEARNT

- Community participation and multi-stakeholder collaboration are crucial in project implementation. The success of the projects was significantly influenced by community buy-in, which involved various stakeholders such as schools, health facilities, parents, youth entrepreneurs, youth organisations, community leaders and structures and regional and national authorities.
- Additionally, the involvement of local government officials in the priority activities of the projects like beneficiary selection, monitoring and backstopping elicited a high level of dedication, commitment and support, and contributed to sustainability.
- Importance of economic empowerment for teenage mothers. The teenage mothers who received entrepreneurship training appreciated the skills gained and the integration of VSLA methodology empowered them with saving and business skills critical in improving their resilience and investment in alternative livelihoods.
- Experience sharing between youth entrepreneurs (those already in business, those that have just started and those that have failed). As a result, the mindset and attitude were improved. Additionally, the practicability of how businesses should run. This included youth-to-youth business learning, peer-to-peer learning through digital ambassadors. This increased the level of understanding and learning among the participants.
- The engagement of business mentors and digital ambassadors to provide technical support improved confidence amongst the young entrepreneurs and built collaboration during implementation. Additionally, during the mentorship session, only experienced local business owners were selected as mentors. This ensured quality mentorship, and provided motivation to the trainees.
- There is a need for more training in leadership roles as well as provide mentorship/ coaching to new elected leaders and internship support for UNSA representatives, as this will strengthen the youth leadership and governance principles. It was emphasised during the activities that youth participation will continue to improve when governance concepts are simplified.
- Conduct training on disability inclusion for youth organisations and youth leaders which will increase their awareness on how to promote equal participation of persons with disability and remove barriers like discriminatory attitudes and inaccessible environments among others.
- There is a need to build capacity in gender-responsive and progressive programming.

## **IV. PROGRAM IMPACT**

The projects continue to enhance the economic resilience of youth entrepreneurs through improved business skills to access alternative business and employment opportunities.

There has been a positive impact at individual, community, and institutional levels in efforts to reduce teenage pregnancies in Busoga and West Nile. Key achievements include mindset changes among in-school adolescents and expectant girls, with involvement from community members and leaders, heightened awareness of rights among girls, improved career guidance in schools, improved parental responsibility and knowledge of legal frameworks among local leaders.

Capacity building initiatives have enabled Advance Afrika and the youth organisations to continuously pursue compliance, promoting good leadership and management practices, and ensuring proper use of resources. This has improved the youth organisation's social status, increased participation, and equipped them to become leaders and youth entities that positively impact their communities.

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## **V. PROGRAM SUSTAINABILITY**

Capacities of grassroots youth organisations are being enhanced to support local youth challenges.

Youth organisations and youth structure leaders have been equipped with knowledge and skills on different models of program strategy and resource mobilisation to improve their decision-making and attract additional resources for improved scale, impact and sustainability.

Additionally, leadership skills for young people and women have been strengthened, alongside increased advocacy efforts for meaningful community engagement.

# 5 STORIES OF CHANGE



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

### DIGITAL AMBASSADOR – MUSEMA INNOCENT

“My name is Musema Innocent. I’m 28 years old from Terego District. Before joining Advance Afrika’s Digital Ambassador programme, I used social media only to chat with friends and post personal photos. I admired people who could influence opinion online, but I never imagined that someone like me from a rural community could become a voice that shapes narratives. When I was selected as a digital ambassador, I entered the training unsure of what to expect. Over the six-day hybrid sessions, my world expanded. I learnt how digital platforms could be used for advocacy, business promotion, and civic engagement. For the first time, I understood concepts like digital storytelling, content marketing, analytics, branding, and responsible online behaviour. The facilitators coached us, not just to post, but to influence. Receiving a smartphone and data bundle made learning practical. I was no longer watching others build online spaces; I was participating in them.

Today, I run an online page called Youth Voices Terego, where I amplify community issues from sanitation, the environment to youth entrepreneurship. I have supported two local youth groups to advertise their products online, designed posters for free, and shared their stories as well reached out to the youth entrepreneurs in my district. My confidence has grown. People now consult me on digital communication, and I have begun earning small service fees for creating awareness campaigns. The training transformed me from a passive social media user into a digital advocate and mentor. What began as a learning opportunity has become a leadership platform, giving rural youths like me visibility, voice, and influence, something I never thought possible.”

### YOUTH ENTREPRENEUR - PEACE GLORIA

“My name is Peace Gloria, a 28-year-old entrepreneur from West Nile and proud chairperson of Sport Glow Herbal and Bar Soap. As a youth group we began, our business was simple we produced herbal soap at home, moved around trading centres, and sometimes went door-to-door hoping someone would buy. We had passion, but we lacked direction, structure, and visibility in the market. Most people could not even identify our products because they had no labels or brand identity.

Everything began to change when we joined Advance Afrika under the “Now Us for Youth-Inclusive Policies and Economic Empowerment West Nile” project. Through the compliance sessions with UNBS, URA, and URSB, we discovered how branding, quality standards, and business registration shape customer trust. The first day we printed our labels and attached them to our soap felt like a rebirth we were no longer just ‘making soap,’ we were launching a product. We also introduced record-keeping after learning its importance in managing finances and tracking growth, and today we confidently use our business book to monitor sales and expenses. The programme has indeed connected us to opportunities we never knew existed. We learned about the Parish Development Model and Youth Livelihood Programme and successfully began benefiting from them. These platforms have positioned our group to access capital, expand production, and dream bigger. For me, the most remarkable transformation is seeing our group evolve from informal sellers to emerging entrepreneurs with a growing market identity. We are deeply grateful to European Union and the partners like Advance Afrika for lighting the path not just giving us skills but building the confidence that our small business can grow, compete, and contribute to community development.”

## STORIES OF CHANGE DURING CASE MANAGEMENT

### AFOYORWOTH LUCY

On 10th August 2025, a defilement case was reported to the HEDCHE office between a father and his 12-year-old daughter, a resident of Erussi, Jupakeno cell in Nyaravur subcounty in Nebbi district. This took place when the child had gone to her father residing in Erussi for financial support. The case was reported by the girl's uncle, who is a resident of the same village and nearby neighbours with his brother. The project assistant received the case and referred it to police for investigation. The case was registered at Erussi police post under reference number SD 09/09/08/2025 and Nebbi central police station under reference number CRB 281/2025. The project supported the child to carry out a medical examination which was done in Nebbi hospital. In addition, police were facilitated to aid in more investigations pertaining to the case. From the medical report, it was established that the child was defiled, and the perpetrator was prosecuted in courts of law. The father is currently serving at Koch Prison in Nebbi district while the child is home with the mother. VHT and midwives have supported with counselling and providing psychosocial support. From the VHT outreach carried out, the VHT reported that the girl had given birth and is still interested in school. She hopes to take care of the child for a while with support from her mother there after she returns to school and finishes her studies.

### ANENO NANCY

On 14th June 2025, a defilement case was reported of a 16-year-old child with a 32-year-old man that took place in Koch Abano, Nebbi subcounty. This case was reported to the HEDCHE office by the girl's mother. The project assistant reported the case to the Police in Koch, which was registered under reference number SD 04/06/11/2025. The child was given Police Forms, 3 of them included for medical examination, which was found to have been truly a defilement case. Police and the CDO were further facilitated to conduct more investigations and establish the nature of the case. The CDO visited the family home to understand what exactly happened between the two parties. After further investigations that took over two weeks, together with the report from the hospital, it was found to be a rape case. The police went ahead to arrest the perpetrator, who was later taken to court and remanded to Koch government prison to serve his sentence.

## STORIES OF CHANGE DURING VHT VISITS AND OUTREACHES

### VIVIAN NAMUSOKO

I am a 15-year-old teenage mother, a resident of Balawoli subcounty in Luuka district. When I found out that she was expectant, it was one of the worst days of her entire life. All I had to do was hide away from people, keeping me indoors all day throughout because I knew they would look at me in a bad way, especially in the state I was in. My mother, who was caring for me, asked me to go to the health facility, but because of fear, I didn't heed to her. One day after feeling so bad, my mother insisted I go. She prepared my clothes and shoes, gave me a small bag to go with me to the health facility. I left that morning to go to the facility. A few meters before reaching the hospital, I saw many women and young girls sitting waiting to be attended to. I hid away in embarrassment and feared going to the health centre. My mother got furious with me and said if anything bad happened to me, I shouldn't blame her since she has done what a parent should do. As I stayed home, it broke my heart to see my classmates go to school without me. One afternoon, as I was resting in the shade at home, a village health worker came and asked my mother if she could talk to me. She told us that they are working together with ECOV Uganda to identify teenage girls and supporting them to access friendly antenatal services at the facility. The health worker spent time talking and encouraging us to go to the health facility for regular check-up and said that all the problems I am facing will get better soon. That the health workers are friendly and will help me get treatment. It was a good meeting, and I decided to go to the facility and while there, the midwives were very friendly. They took my blood pressure and was told it's normal. An HIV test was done, and the results were negative. The blood results showed that my blood is a little down and I was given tablets. I feel much better, strong and so far, going well with pregnancy. My sincere thanks go to the project partners, the donors, and the Village health team for supporting and encouraging me and other teenage girls to access health services at the hospital. I appreciate the VHT for coming to my rescue early enough before I ended my life because I even had suicidal thoughts, but during the sessions, I opened up and shared all I was feeling and I was counselled and encouraged to keep going. After delivering my baby, I plan to stay home for a few months and later go back to school. My mother has offered to support me in taking care of the baby and told me I should have nothing to do with the father of the baby since he is also the same age as I am. I feel more at peace and motivated to continue my life, especially now that I has a positive attitude.

# 6 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

SOURCE OF FUNDING	PROJECT NAME	2025
		UGX
<b>RESTRICTED GRANT</b>		
NEMA	Contract for provision of consultancy services	-
European Union	Community Response Actions to Reduce Teenage Pregnancies in Busoga and West Nile (ATP)	426,937,554
	Now Us For Youth Inclusive Policies and Economic Empowerment West Nile	-
RDE	Enhancing Youth Inclusion in Governance & decision Making	182,790,697
Wilde Ganzen	Improving the Economic Resilience of Youth in Northern and Central Uganda	380,753,870
Brighter Monday Uganda	Up skilling programme	118,535,312
NOREC	Umunthu - Education and Skilling.	406,002,787
<b>Total Restricted Grant</b>		<b>1,515,020,220</b>
<b>UN RESTRICTED GRANTS</b>		
Institutional Development		-
		-
<b>TOTAL GRANT INCOME</b>		<b>1,515,020,220</b>

# 7 DONORS AND PARTNERS

## DONORS

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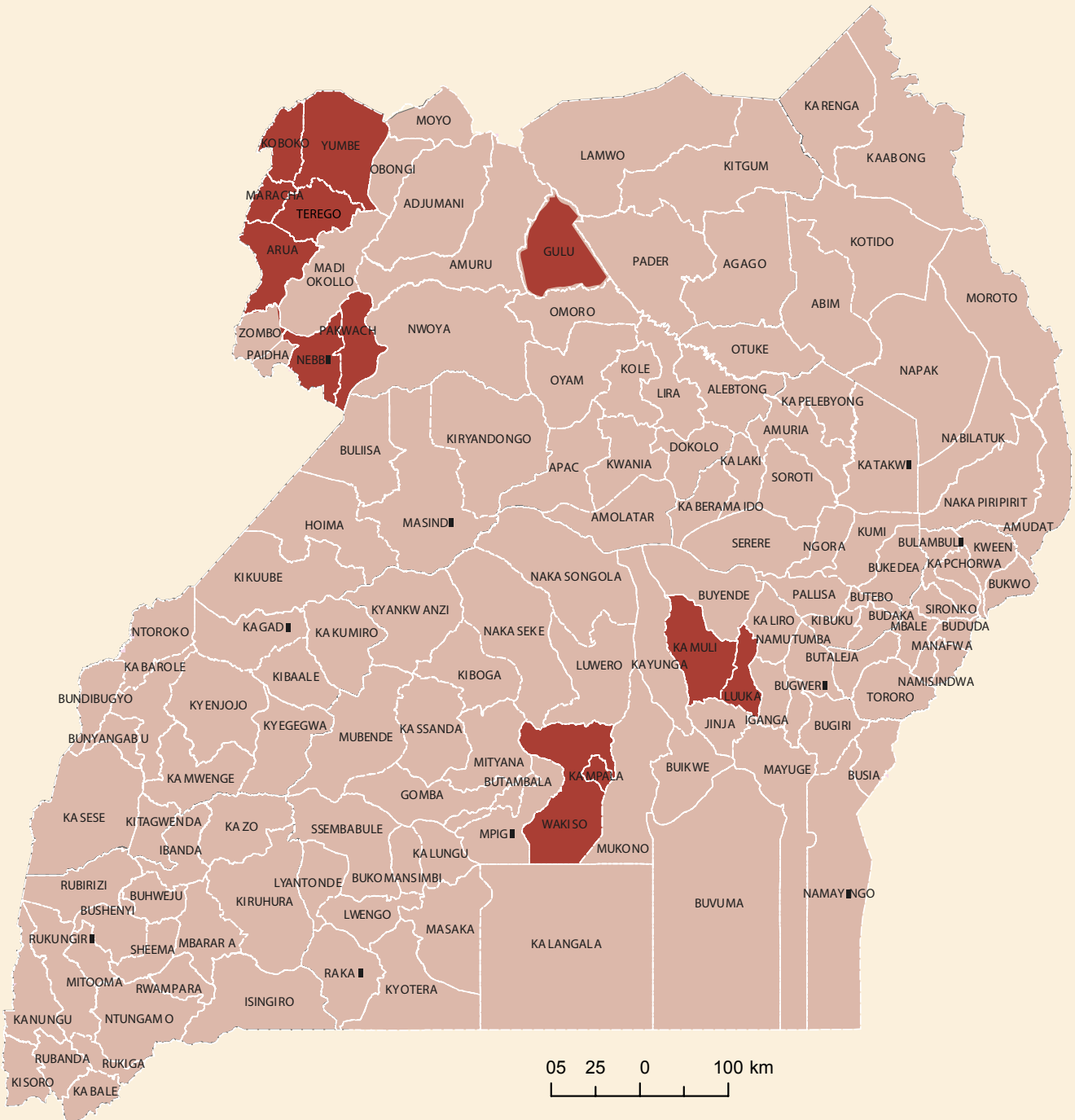


## PARTNERS

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# 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

Plot 2974, Kiira Town Council - Kyaliwajjala Road, Wakiso District  
P. O. Box 149264 Kampala - Uganda  
**Email:** [satukunda@advanceafrika.org](mailto:satukunda@advanceafrika.org) or [admin@advanceafrika.org](mailto:admin@advanceafrika.org)  
**Website:** [www.advanceafrika.org](http://www.advanceafrika.org)

### PROJECT OFFICES

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