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# PILOT STUDY TO ASSESS THE PROGRESS OF UGANDA TOWARDS ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS 3 AND 8 ON SPECIFIC YOUTH TARGETS.

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## ABBREVIATIONS

NEET	Not Education Employment and Training
BTVET	Business Technical Vocational Education and Training
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UBOS	Uganda Bureau of Statistics
MLGSD	Ministry Of Gender Labor and Social Development
NPA	National Planning Authority
UN	United Nations
ILO	International Labor Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
NDP 2	National Development Plan II
SWTS	School-to-Work Transition Survey
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
YLP	Youth Livelihood Program
UPOLET	Uganda Post O- Level Education Training

## **PREAMBLE.**

**AWARE** that the Youth of Uganda who constitute the majority of the population in Uganda and are entitled to be recognized on issues of national programming;

**RECOGNIZING** the opportunity presented to young people by the global community and our government to inform and shape the new development agenda;

**NOTING** that the 1995 Constitution of the Republic of Uganda realizes and recognizes this imbalance and thus calls for equal opportunity in all of its provisions;

**FURTHER NOTING** that this generation will inherit the consequences of Agenda 2030

**ACKNOWLEDGING** that youth form the critical mass to drive agenda 2030 and if their potential is harnessed it can make the global goals achievable.

**REAFFIRMING** that the youth population is heterogeneous (male, female, youth with disabilities, educated and uneducated, those working in formal and informal sectors, urban and rural including those in slums, street youth and unemployed), and that youth engagement in and impact on decision making processes at local and national level is not commensurate with its numerical strength.

Do hereby **COMMIT** ourselves to:

- Empower young people with knowledge, skills and networks that enable them to localize and implement Sustainable development goals.
- Connect them to meaningful opportunities to participate in and, support them to gather and generate data in monitoring and tracking SDGs.
- Train and support to establish a network of organizations and young people passionate about accountability to work together to formulate a National Accountability Framework on the SDGs.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.**

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It is our hope that the findings from this piece of work will translate into something rewarding for our youth and the country as a whole.

## **SECTION ONE**

### **1.1 BACKGROUND**

The Big Idea is a programme on youth-led accountability for the Sustainable Development Goals funded by the European Union and implemented by Restless Development in partnership with Plan UK, African Monitor and Youth Empowerment Synergy Ghana. The programme aims to empower young people with knowledge, skills and networks, connect them to meaningful opportunities to participate and, support them to gather and generate data. This will strategically position them to become leaders in exercising accountability for the post-2015 Development Agenda framework.

### **1.2 INTRODUCTION**

Uganda is a young country with over 73% of her population under the age of 30 years according to the National Population and Housing Census 2014. Such a young demographic presents a great opportunity to Uganda, considering the energy and dynamism that is a common characteristic of young people. Yet, this dynamism and energy has largely been left untapped due to limited sustainable youth programming. Health and unemployment continue to be a major concern for young Ugandans. According to U-Report Post 2015 consultations and the Uganda Youth Manifesto, health and employment were some of the key needs identified by young people in Uganda.

Uganda, as a signatory to agenda 2030 committed to realizing the goals and respective targets set therein. Great strides have been undertaken by government and key stakeholders to domesticate the goals. In fact, the goals are an integral part of the National Development Plan<sup>2</sup>.

The big question is: are government commitments being translated into actual programmes to realize the targets and subsequently the goals.

### **1.3 PURPOSE OF THE STUDY**

With the realization that health and unemployment are critical issues for young people in Uganda, SDGs Accountability Advocates agreed to undertake a study to assess progress made in respect to goal 3 and 8. The study was further narrowed down to two targets namely: target 3.7 and target 8.6. This report presents key findings from the study.

### **1.4 METHODOLOGY**

Data was collected from youth leaders, government departments, and beneficiaries of specific youth programs through interviewer-administered questionnaires. This was followed by in-depth interviews with key government officials and observation of key outcomes of interest among the youths in (NEET) bracket accessing gainful employment and Youth Friendly Health Services. A rigorous desk review of relevant reports and documents was conducted to inform the data collection.

### **1.6 DATA SOURCES**

This report used data from UBOS, ILO School-to-Work Transition Surveys (SWTS), Ministry of Health, National Planning Authority, UNFPA, Ministry of Education, National Budget, Ministry of Gender Labor and Social Development and information from the field interviews by our researchers.

### **1.7 POLICY FRAMEWORK**

This pilot study was conducted mindful of the legal and policy framework expressly provided for in national legal instruments. The policy documents below were given due consideration:

- The National Development Plan II (NDP 2) 2015/16-2020/21
- National Vision 2040
- Health Sector Development Plan 2015/16-2019/2020
- The Skilling Uganda Strategic Plan 2012/13-2019/20
- National Strategy on Youth Employment 2016
- National Adolescent Health Policy, 2004
- National Youth Policy Revised 2016
- National Population and Housing 2014 Census Report, March 2016
- National Employment Policy 2011 and The African Youth Charter.

## **1.8 THE SDGS FRAMEWORK UNDER OUR SCOPE**

### **1.8.1: Employment**

**Goal 8, target 6:** By 2020, UN member states should have substantially reduced the proportion of youth not in employment, education and training.

**The global indicator:** proportion of youth (aged 15-24 years) not in education, employment or training.

**Complementary network indicator:** Proportion of young people between (15 -30) accessing skills and services for gainful employment by 2020.

### **1.8.1: Health**

**Goal 3, target 7:** By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health care services including for family planning information and education and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes

**The global indicator:** contraceptive prevalence

**Complementary network indicator:** proportion of young people 10-24, male and female accessing youth friendly services.

## SECTION TWO

### 2.1 KEY FINDINGS

#### 2.1.1: Employment

**Table 1. Youth population by educational status and sex, 2013 and 2015 (%)**

Education status	2013			2015		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	female
Never attended school	5.2	4.2	3.2	6.1	4.2	7.7
Attending school	51.8	47.1	41.9	51.2	46.8	54.9
Dropped-out before graduation or completion of school	33.7	39.5	45.9	33.3	40.1	27.6
Education completed	9.3	9.2	9.0	9.4	8.9	9.8

**Source:** School-to-work transition survey (SWTS) in 2013 and 2015.

**Table 2. Youth neither in employment, neither training or education (NEETs) by composition and sex, 2013 and 2015**

2013	NEET rate	Unemployed non-students	Inactive non-students	2015	NEET rate	Unemployed non-students	Inactive non-students
Total	12.2	2.7	9.5	Total	13.2	3.5	9.7
Male	7.1	2.3	4.7	Male	6.6	2.5	4.1
Female	16.9	3.0	13.8	Female	18.6	4.3	14.3

**Source:** School-to-Work Transition Survey (SWTS) in 2013 and 2015

**Table 3: Distribution of youth employment by sector, aggregate and 1-digit level, and sex, 2013 and 2015 (%)**

Year 2013	Year 2015

Sector	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Agriculture	60.0	56.5	63.4	57.2	53.3	60.9
Industry	8.5	12.8	4.4	10.9	15.8	6.2
Services	31.4	30.5	32.2	32.1	30.7	33.0

**Source:** School-to-Work Transition Survey (SWTS) in 2013 and 2015

**MAIN FINDINGS.**

According to Labor Market Transitions of Young Women and Men in Uganda Survey conducted by International Labor Organization in partnership with UBOS, Students in Uganda showed strong preferences for finding future work in modern sector jobs, such as professionals and technicians and associate professionals (17.8 per cent). However, at the time of the survey, the shares of professional occupations in total employment were very low (3.3 per cent). Consequently, if those who aspired to become professionals did attain the necessary education, they would be competing for a very small pool of vacancies. This perhaps explains the increasing resentment of the youth in taking up agriculture as a profession.

Uganda's road to middle-income status by 2020 remains a pipe dream if government policies and programs are not designed to harness this huge demographic dividend. There are signs that indicate current and future mismatch between the supply and demand in the labor market.

The share of youth neither in employment nor in education or training (NEETs) in Uganda is not high but did increase slightly between 2013 and 2015 (from 12.2 to 13.2 per cent), and unfortunately the share among young women is nearly three times that of young men (at 18.6 and 6.6 per cent, respectively), and this is explained primarily by the inability of many young women to go to school and the early age of marriage and family formation in the country.

Agriculture continues to absorb the largest portion of Uganda's young workers (57.2 per cent), followed by service sector activities (32.1 per cent) and industry (10.9 per cent). This explains why more investment must be put in place to modernize agriculture and more focus should be geared towards value addition.

Informal employment affects more than nine in ten (91.9 per cent) young workers in Uganda. This represents a very slight improvement from 2013 (92.2 per cent) yet the government has not put in place interventions to formalize this sector which are employing most of the youth.

There is lack of focus on providing relevant skills needed in the labor Market. Oil and Gas industry is estimated to create over 1300 jobs in the next 3-4 years but there are little efforts geared towards training our citizens with skills which are certified by internationally recognized institutions. The Standard railway gauge is expected to create 12000 jobs and the Oil pipeline projects will provide a number of jobs and our youths haven't been prepared to take them on. Overlapping mandate of government institutions is likely to hinder it's objectives in meeting its commitments and targets. Each institution is independent while it is doing the same work thus duplication and inefficiency.



## **GOVERNMENT INTERVENTIONS ON YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT.**

### **Youth Livelihood Program (YLP)**

The Ministry of Gender Labor and Social Development has pursued aggressive programmes for job creation to absorb youth who are ready for the job market (NEET). Since the launch of the Youth Livelihood Programme (YLP) in January 2014, Government has continued with the implementation of the Programme in response to the job creation for the youth. As a result, at the end of December, 2015, a total of 80,286 youth directly received technical and financial support under this program. Under this program, 399 projects benefiting 4,944 youth were for Skills Development. In the next financial year 2016/17, the government has allocated more Shs.40billion to make a total of Shs.75 billion to the program.

### **Skilling Uganda**

Government came up with Skilling Uganda programme as paradigm shift of BTVET program towards skills for development in selected technical and vocational institutions across the country beginning next year (2017) with Shs.10 billion to kick-start the programme. The government through Skilling Uganda Authority aims to engage in empowering Ugandans with skills that would allow them to participate in and contribute to the process of inclusive growth and development.

The Skills development sub-sector budget increased from 38.1 billion to 206 billion, but the sector could not raise the Ushs.10.00bn to support the programme for skilling unemployed under graduates. The program is to start with 10,000 graduates though 50,000 graduates are targeted for a period of 5 years through offering skills development.

In 2011 the Government of Uganda drew up a Business, Technical and Vocational Education and Training (BTVET) Strategic Plan 2011–2020. As a strategy to strengthen BTVET System, Skilling Uganda Programme has been put in place to address the major challenges regarding relevance, quality, and access and equity, management and financial sustainability of the BTVET system in Uganda.

### **National Youth Service Scheme**

The National Vision 2040 identifies establishment of national service scheme especially for the youth so as to facilitate development of a common identity and enhancement of

civic responsibility. One of the key deliverables of the National Development Plan (NDP) II was to develop and operationalize a framework for National Service training for the youth. The concept of the NYS has also been developed to address capacity challenges of youth by creating opportunities for skills development, access to employment and income generation while contributing to community and national development.

Parliament last year passed a motion calling government to develop a policy to operationalize the program. The NRM government unanimously supported the implementation of the program in its party manifesto. Therefore, Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development went ahead to develop a concept note with financial commitment of **5.00 billion** to kick start the program in the financial year 2016/17. Ironically, this money was not allocated in the budget for the 2016/17 Financial Year budget.

### **Promotion of Green Jobs and Fair Labour Market in Uganda (PROGREL)**

The Government of Uganda through the Ministry of Gender, Labour & Social Development has designed and started a Programme on Promotion of "Green" Jobs & Fair Labour Market in Uganda, FY 2015/16-20/21 that is aimed at fighting unemployment, decent work deficits, and workplace unsustainable environment practices in the Country.

The goal of the programme is to promote "green" jobs and fair labour market in Uganda. The specific objectives of the Programme are; To reduce occupational accidents and diseases and industrial pollution at workplaces sector (Jua-kalis ); to promote external (abroad) employment through provision of capital to potential migrant workers and enhancement of placement and monitoring systems as highlighted in the Public Investments Plan for FY 2015/16.

This program is to cost 863.00 UGX Billion for ten years; however a total of 0.200 Billion UGX was provided for in the 2015/16 FY instead of the 86.30 billion UGX to be allocated annually leaving a funding gap of UGX 62.800 billion.

### **Presidential Investment Round Table (PIRT) Program.**

The Presidential Investment Round Table (PIRT) proposed initiatives for prioritization of performing arts and creative economy. It's against this that the Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development developed the Action Plan for the Creative economy to operationalize the presidential initiative program. The National Development Plan II and the National Youth Manifesto 2016/2021 recognizes efforts to investing in the young people's talents to reduce youth unemployment and promote the cultural heritage. As a result, the Ministry had committed **UGX 55.00 Billion** in the first year of implementation 2016/17. However, this money was not catered for in the budget of FY 2016/17 to roll out the program. The 55.0 Billion needs to be allocated in the next FY 2017/18 to start up the program to address youth unemployment and promote their talent.

### **2.6.7 Students Loan Scheme**

Over the years, Government has introduced a number of interventions aimed at increasing access to education namely; UPE, USE, Uganda Post O- Level Education Training (UPOLET). This has led to the increase in the number of students enrolled over the years, though the number still seem inadequate, It is upon this background that the students loan scheme was started and the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development was tasked to come up with the regulatory framework to guide the operationalization of the scheme. And to date this program has benefited a total of 1477 students in the last two academic years 2014/15 and 2015/16 offering Sciences.



## **2.2.2: Health**

### **DEMYSIFYING YOUTH FRIENDLY SERVICES**

Youth-friendly health services are broad-based health and related services provided to young people to meet their individual needs in a manner and an environment that attracts and sustains their interest in utilizing such services. Youth friendly services seek to empower young people to know and understand their health rights and actively participate in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the services provided to them.

Improvements and availability of youth friendly services therefore can act as a strong foundation for ensuring universal access to sexual reproductive health services. Adolescence being is a transitional stage from childhood to adulthood; adolescents will continue to demand services that match their needs even in adulthood. Adolescent friendly health services can pioneer change for the whole population. (WHO, 2002)

Improved health seeking practices among young people result from the presence of and access to youth friendly health services. The lack of YFHS has over the years proven a barrier to young people seeking health services in the health centers. The availability of

AYFHS provides an environment that enables young people to freely and comfortably visit the centers and get the services they need. It can be therefore argued that Adolescent and Youth Friendly Services are a crucial pathway to universal access to sexual and reproductive health care services for Ugandans, especially young Ugandans.

**CHARACTERISTICS OF YOUTH FRIENDLY SERVICES.**

According to WHO 2002 Adolescent friendly health services represent an approach which brings together the qualities that young people demand, with the high standards that have to be achieved in the best public services. These services must be equitable, accessible, acceptable, appropriate and effective.

The characteristics of youth friendly services are as shown in the table below

<b>Provider characteristics</b>	<b>Facility characteristics</b>	<b>Programme design characteristics</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specially trained staff –youth friendly service providers.</li> <li>• Respect for young people</li> <li>• Privacy and confidentiality honored</li> <li>• Adequate time for client/provider interaction</li> <li>• Peer counselors available</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Separate space and special times</li> <li>• Convenient hours</li> <li>• Convenient location</li> <li>• Adequate space and sufficient privacy</li> <li>• Comfortable surroundings</li> <li>• Educational material available on-site and to take.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth involvement in design and continuing feedback</li> <li>• Drop-in clients welcomed/appointments arranged rapidly</li> <li>• No overcrowding and short waiting times</li> <li>• Publicity and recruitment that inform and reassure youth.</li> </ul>

**MINIMUM PACKAGE FOR YFS**

- HIV counseling (and referral for testing and care) pregnancy testing and antenatal and postnatal care counseling on sexual violence and abuse (and referral for needed services) post-abortion care (PAC) counseling and contraception
- Promotion for behavioral change

- HCT/STI services
- HIV treatment care and prevention services including PMTC
- Family planning services
- Psychosocial support for PLWH
- Involvement of Parents, Religious Leaders, and Teachers

### **Government of Uganda Commitments on YFS**

In the 2004 national adolescent Health policy, the Government of Uganda lists targets that they hope to achieve. The targets relevant to YFS include;

- Contraceptive use rate among sexually active adolescents doubled
- First childbirth delayed-reduced by half from 59% to 30% (the proportion of women who have their first child below 20 years).
- Age at first sexual intercourse should be raised to 18 years from 16.7 in females and Maintained for males.
- The proportion of adolescents abstaining from sex before marriage increased by 30%
- Practice of protected/safe sex among sexually active adolescent increased by 30%
- Practice of dual protection in sex (against both disease and pregnancy) among adolescents increased by 30%
- Post-abortion care integrated in all health centers HCIV, HCIII, HCII, HCI and arrange appropriate primary health care facilities with emphasis on post abortion family planning counseling and services.
- Abortion law reviewed with a view to improve the services.
- Proportion of mothers below 20 years delivering in a health facility doubled (from 48% to 80%).
- Proportion of adolescents that are knowledgeable about STIs and AIDS increased.
- Perception of the risk of getting HIV/AIDS in adolescents increased in females (68-90%) males (48-90%).
- STI management and HIV/AIDS counseling integrated in all activities at all levels of care.
- Proportion of HIV positive adolescent accessing ARVs increased.
- Use of emergency contraception integrated in family planning programmes targeting adolescents increased.

- Incorporate adolescent reproductive health in the curricula of all health training institutions and schools.

### Progress Made

The table below shows the progress Uganda has made in relation the commitments above

Indicator	Female (%)	Male (%)
Comprehensive knowledge of HIV	38.1	39.5
Knowledge of a condom source is at for females and for males	75.1	90.0
Had sex before age of 15 for (15-24 years)	13.9	16%
Had sex before the age of 18years (18-24 years)	57.6	46.5
Condom use during last intercourse	53.6	62.7
Have never married haven't had sex	64	51
Have had 2 and more sexual partners	2.1	8.9
Females between 15-19 have had sex with a man 10 years older	13%	
Tested for HIV	52.8	32.4

(Source: UDHS 2011)

### Remaining Gaps

As noted in the figure above there are still gaps that persist in the provision of youth friendly services which is a major dent to the realization of target 3.7.

According to the Uganda Service Availability and Readiness Assessment 2013 59% of health centres offer adolescent health services, broken down as follows:

- |   |
|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provision of male condoms to adolescents: 80%</li> <li>2. Family planning services to adolescents: 71%</li> <li>3. Provision of combined oral contraceptive pills to adolescents: 65%</li> <li>4. HIV testing and counselling services to adolescents: 60%</li> </ol> |
|---|

In respect to adolescent health service readiness, progress is being undermined by the following:

- |   |
|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Only 52% of health facilities have staff trained in HIV/AIDS prevention, care and management for adolescents</li> </ol> |
|---|

2. Only 37% of health facilities have staff trained in provision of adolescent health services
3. Only 37% of health facilities have staff providing family planning services trained in adolescent sexual and reproductive health
4. Only 23% of health facilities are aware of the guidelines for service provision to adolescents
5. 84% of health facilities provide condoms

When it comes to the availability of all the noted tracer items for adolescent health services, only 9% of health facilities have all items. These worrying trends are an indicator that a significant number of young people is yet to be reached with the sexual reproductive health services and information they need to realize full, productive and health lives.

One of the major factors being pointed out at the cause for this state of affairs is the fact that youth friendly services have majorly been championed by civil society players who have established youth corners in several locations across the country. Unfortunately, like most civil society programmes that are dependent on aid, this model of youth friendly services is not sustainable.

Unfortunately, government commitment to sexual reproductive health is yet to be translated into actual increase in sector financing which is predominantly by households and civil society. According to the NHA, 2013, health care financing is largely dependent on financing from the households (43 percent), donors (34 percent) and only 23 percent comes from Government and employers (NHA, 2013). The high dependence on financing by the households reduces access and utilization of health services while dependence on donor funding affects the sustainability of health financing in Uganda.

It should be noted that household financing has major limitations one being that the high rates of unemployment in the country mean that a significant number of young people remain largely dependent on their guardians for healthcare needs, among others. In situations where young people have sensitive sexual and reproductive health concerns, access to services may be hampered by the fact that they have to open up to their guardians to be able to get the care they need.

Young people in rural areas remain disproportionately affected by long distances to health centers. This remains a major limitation to access.

The attitudes of the service providers are a great barrier to adolescent and young people youth friendly services. Young people are discouraged from seeking care if they encounter providers whose attitudes indicate that youth should not be seeking sexual health services. Unfortunately, a significant percentage of health care providers 63% (SARA Index, 2013) remain untrained and therefore ill prepared to professionally handle adolescent and youth sexual reproductive health needs.





## SECTION THREE

### 3.1 RECOMMENDATIONS.

#### 3.1.1 Employment

There is need to establish centers of excellence for skills for quality assurance and standardization. Skills being imparted to youth should be able to serve the market demands and applicable in the labor market.

There clear lack of coordination among government departments implementing crucial programs in Uganda. This impedes genuine efforts from bearing fruits and it leads to irrelevant training and looking closely from a critical angle though BTVET is trying hard to equip skills among citizens, some of these skills are irrelevant and ultimately wouldn't be useful to the trainees. In addition the relevant skills lack clear system for international certification and employment internationally.

The interventions in place are too minimal to solve the challenge of youth unemployment, the number of unemployed youth is far bigger than the efforts so far in place and this means that by 2020, we cannot achieve the target of having more youth in employment or relevant training. For instance while BTVET institutions train approximately 50,000 trainees annually, over 400,000 join the labour market from all other

institutions and the number of those with irrelevant skills is higher than that which the BTJET institutions can train.

Uganda has been caught up unaware with oil and gas and little efforts are underway to prepare for Iron ore which is projected to offer more jobs than oil and gas, Standard Railway Gauge and the oil pipeline combined. There should be efforts to prepare for this resource which has potential to employ a big part of the youth in Uganda.

Work contracts awarded to foreigners should slow but sure come back to Ugandans with preparation efforts and strategies raid to ensure more Ugandans getting employed. In addition to this, there should be the minimum wage law protecting Ugandan youth who are under serious humiliation from the employing class.

Students Loan scheme should be adopted as the official government sponsorship to tertiary institutions of learning since the current government sponsorship to tertiary institutions helps the rich class and condemns poor children to poverty and inaccessibility to higher education.



### 3.1.2: Health

It is paramount that the country develops a sustainable model to address the sexual reproductive needs of young people. This model should be grounded in institutionalization to complement civil society-donor reliant programmes.

Furthermore, government should seek to harmonize sexual reproductive health programming across the sector, fully coordinating with all government actors to ensure sustainable financing and programming. As it is, government does not have sufficient information on adolescent health programmes being implemented by non-government actors which creates room for duplication and wastage of resources.

Link health services to schools. Schools provide a natural entry point for reaching young people with health education and services.

Increases mobile services to target young people in hard to reach communities. Increasingly in towns and cities services are being provided in shopping malls, as well as in community or youth centers. The same cannot be said for rural areas where such services are limited or nonexistent. Mobile services will help to reach young people especially in the remote areas who are often excluded from routine health services. Outreach services are also needed for adolescents who slip through the net although they may be geographically close to an existing health facility. For example, Young people living on the streets find it difficult to access mainstream services but will respond to targeted services for this vulnerable client group.

Involve young people: according to the WHO 2002 "Services that reach a high quality are those that closely involve adolescents in their planning and monitoring." Through the involvement of young people service providers are assured of providing relevant services in the right place, at the right time and in the right style. This is because such services are dependent on the views of the young people for whom they are being designed.

Allocate resources to youth friendly services under the national budget. Currently only 5% (Ministry of Health 2011) of Public health facilities in Uganda have youth corners. There is need to increase the number of youth corners in public health center across the country.



### **3.3 ROLE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN MONITORING AND, IMPLEMENTING AND EVALUATION OF SDG 3 AND SDG 8**

There is a growing recognition that young people have a role to play in the implementation and monitoring of sustainable development goals. However, this recognition needs to be translated into actual platforms and opportunities for young people to be part of agenda 2030. It is the responsibility of all stakeholders including the young people themselves to ensure that they take their place in agenda 2030.

**Information:** Young people need to be aware of what agenda 2030 is all about and how they can part. Efforts to sensitize young people about agenda 2030 should be doubled, even tripled. Young people should take it upon themselves to mobilize and sensitize others on what agenda 2030 is all about, specific government commitments, progress made and government and non-government programmes being implemented.

**Programme design, planning and implementation:** Young people should seek out and understand national development planning processes and how they can be part of programme design, planning and implementation at community levels.

**Peer to peer coordination and leadership:** Young people can be role models and ambassadors for the SDGs creating a movement of youth who are conscious of the

sustainable development agenda and the contribution they can make toward creating a better world.

### **3.4 CONCLUSION.**

This study revealed that the gap between government commitments and delivery on those commitments continues to be worrying. Whereas government has tried to create an enabling policy environment, most policies and strategies have largely remained on paper and have not been backed by financial commitments and actual implementation.

Government and non-government actors need to harmonize their operations to ease monitoring and evaluation processes. Furthermore, we should all be working towards the same indicators and in respect to the guiding policies and documents.

There is still more that needs to be done yet our pace is too slow. Whether we will be able to realize the Sustainable Development Goals is heavily reliant on putting in place relevant and efficient programmes to address the needs of Ugandans and rallying all Ugandans to be part of the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the said programs.

