



# Uganda Youth Network

## About the Network

Uganda has the youngest population in the world, with more than three-quarters of Ugandans aged under 30. This presents a huge opportunity, but with more than three-quarters of those young Ugandans struggling to find work, it also presents a huge challenge.

The National Youth Engagement Network (NYEN) in Uganda was formed in 2020 from alumni of the International Citizen Service (ICS), operating on a national level in four different regions. With the end of the ICS program, there was a need to keep the former young volunteers active in their communities. It is a youth-led network and tackles challenges faced by the youth in Uganda, predominantly focused on issues in health and livelihoods.

## Climate change

Youth champions in Uganda are exploring how charcoal waste can be recycled to make briquettes that provide both clean energy and employment opportunities for young Ugandans.

Climate youth champion Hosea and his team aim to tackle both climate change and the high youth unemployment in their country. Burning briquettes is a clean source of energy and reduce the need for tree cutting which is a major contributor to climate change. He says:

“Through awareness raising and workshops, we were able to train 200 trainees to teach women and youth in their communities how to make briquettes themselves.”

The briquettes make a difference for the environment and at the same time provide more safety for women and girls because they no longer have to look for firewood. It also gives them more time for other activities, such as education and work, which enables them to build a better life.”



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Hosea,  
Climate youth  
champion



## Sexual reproductive health and rights

Over the last two years, the network has engaged in SRHR advocacy through radio talk shows, and community outreach, as well as advocating for improved health services for young people.

Through community scorecards, the NYEN team researched the level of youth provision in health centres around the country.

They conducted dialogues with a variety of stakeholders to air their concerns, and to follow up on whether issues raised in previous sessions have been addressed.

Through these initiatives, all the concerns that were identified were noted for improvement.

These include an increase in the number of days allocated to youth-friendly services, provision of condom dispensers, double-checking condoms for expiration dates, and placing dispensers in locations that are not exposed to the public.



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