



MATERNAL & ADOLESCENT HEALTH IN UGANDA

PROFILING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF
THE FIRST LADY HON. JANET KATAAHA MUSEVENI

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Organisation of African First Ladies
Against HIV/AIDS
OAFLA



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PROFILE OF JANET MUSEVENI KATAAHA

- First Lady of the Republic of Uganda, 1986
- Founder and Patron UWESO, 1986
- Founder and Patron Uganda Youth Forum, 1992
- Founder and Patron NSARWU, 1994
- Member of Organization of African First Ladies Against AIDS (OAFLA) since 2003 and head of the OAFLA Uganda Chapter
- Good Will Ambassador, Safe Motherhood Uganda
- Member of Parliament, Ruhaama County, Ntungamo District
- Cabinet Minister in Charge of Karamoja Affairs
- National Champion Elimination of Mother To Child Transmission of HIV (eMTCT)
- Wife, mother and grandmother



2 SYNOPSIS OF THE DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC SITUATION

Uganda has progressively recovered from civil wars of the 1970s and early 1980s and is steadily developing into a middle income country. The steady socio-economic transformation since 1986 is evidenced by some key statistics;

Key Statistics

- Mortality ratio per 100,000 live births at 506 in 1995, to 438 in 2011
- Infant Mortality rate per 1000 live births at 86 in 1995 to 54 in 2011
- Births in health deliveries at 35% in 1995 to 57% in 2011
- Life expectancy at 41 years in 2001 to 50.5 years in 2011
- Poverty levels at 56% in 1992 to 19% in 2012
- Literacy levels from 59% in 2001 to 76% in 2011
- Primary school enrollment is at 83%
- HIV prevalence at 18.2% in 1992 to 7.3% in 2011.
- Age at first marriage is at 18.3 years among women 20 to 24 years old and 22.7 for boys.



FIRST LADY ENGAGEMENT IN WOMEN'S AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PROGRAMMES



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Mrs Janet Museveni has been a strong and consistent leader and partner in Uganda's socio-economic transformation story as wife, mother, grandmother and a leader. She employs a holistic approach to people issues, promoting adherence to the cultural and religious value system especially in family life and raising of children and young people. She consistently implores individuals, families, communities and leaders at all levels to take responsibility for social and economic needs, utilizing locally available resources and only call on external support for reinforcement.

Mrs Museveni has directly engaged in community social mobilization action around the country and

in advocacy for leadership participation at various levels. She has mobilized resources to build national structures such as UWESO to promote home grown solutions for sustained and holistic human development especially targeting children, young people and women. She makes and nurtures partnerships for expanded action with stakeholders from global to community levels respecting the power of various actors for comprehensive focus on socio-economic issues.

This compilation focuses on her engagement in sexual and reproductive health issues among adolescents, young people and women.

Adolescents and Young People's Health

Uganda's population is currently estimated at 36.2 million people and 52% of these are children below 15 years. About 28 million Ugandans are under the age of 25 years. While this youthful population structure promises high economic benefits in the medium and long term, these dependent children and young people have to be nurtured to develop into productive citizens. Uganda has prioritized focus on the young population but challenges persist.

For example the teenage pregnancy rate, a critical development indicator is still high with every one out of four girls under 18 years pregnant. HIV prevalence among young people 15-24 years declined significantly in the 1990s and early 2000 to 2.9% in 2004 but increased to 3.7% in 2011

*Mrs. Museveni, UN resident coordinator and Swedish
Ambassador in dialogue with teenage mothers at
Kiswa Teenage center ►*



UWESCO

Mrs Janet Museveni's efforts in this area began as early as 1986 and have evolved to focus on a range of issues through founded organizations and inspired national programming.

UWESO that was established to respond to the plight of orphaned and vulnerable children and young people mainly due to HIV and civil conflict has expanded from a national NGO into a national structure that includes a micro finance institution for affected and vulnerable families- a training institute that in addition to national curriculum, imparts life and livelihood skills; and a children's home that caters for the needs of the unaccompanied children including street children.

Young OVC girls are more likely to engage in early sex and end up HIV infected and/ or pregnant due limited socio-economic support. Efforts by actors such as UWESO have contributed to significant reduction in OVC vulnerability and to outcomes such as high school enrollment for both girls and boys.

Mrs. Museveni with rehabilitated street kids from Karamoja ▶



Adolescents and Young People's Health

Uganda Youth Forum

The Uganda Youth Forum has over the past 24 years provided a forum for young people to dialogue on issues that challenge them as they grow up. Such issues include sexuality, relationships, adolescence, career choices, etc and outcomes from such dialogue influence national young people policies and programmes. The Forum has been a source of information for many young people assisting in making healthy choices and linkages to related services.

The Forum inspired national young people focused campaigns such as the 'True Love waits' that have contributed to the improvement of the national indicator on increasing age at first sex among boys and girls.

Mrs. Museveni with young people at "Re-engaging Leadership for effective HIV/AIDS Prevention among the youth" seminar. ►





Young Empowered and Healthy campaign

Young people are a heterogeneous population group that requires consistent communication programming that is adapted to situations to promote access to age-specific, accurate and up-to-date information to inform decisions. Mrs Janet Museveni has inspired many national level communication programmes in the country.

She launched the Young Empowered and Healthy campaign that was run by young people from 2005 to 2011 winning international awards for innovative communication on issues including transactional sex, negative male masculinity, consequences of alcohol abuse, teenage pregnancy leading to school drops outs and consequences of abortion. The campaign funded by USAID reached over 5 million young people.

Adolescents and Young People's Health

Cross-generation sex campaign

The cross-generation sex campaign by OAFLA focused on equipping young people especially girls about dangers of early marriages and sexual relationships, the importance of couple testing before marriage and specifically relationships between young girls and men 10 years and older. National HIV sero-surveys have revealed a higher HIV prevalence rate among girls 15-24 years married to men 40 yrs and older.

Mrs Janet Museveni philosophy of abstinence from sex until marriage and being faithful to one partner has inspired programming for many partners contributing to the national ABC strategy. Whereas this approach sometimes attracts scrutiny, it provides a less expensive approach to some challenges through focusing on preventing teenage pregnancies and primary HIV infection and eventually averting costs from consequences of early sex and care for the HIV infected in the long term.

On the other side, she works with partners to promote support for the affected young people to lead healthy lives. She for example inspired to establishment of the first health facility to address teenage pregnancy in the Kampala City.



Mrs. Museveni interacting with young people during the cross-generational sex campaign



Women's Socio-Economic Development and Health

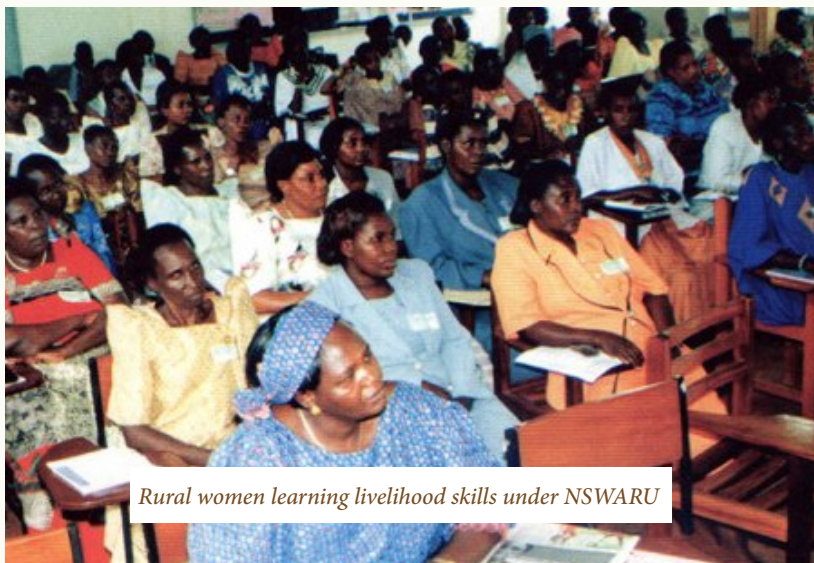
The persistent low social economic status of girls and women in African societies including Uganda is documented among the key structural factors that impact on their ability to access information, make healthy choices and act on them. This results in among other challenges, poor access to services including antenatal care, leading to life threatening sicknesses and death.

NSARWU a member - based organization founded by Mrs Janet Museveni, has since 1994 targeted economic empowerment of the rural woman through livelihood skills building, microfinance, agriculture and enterprise building. This platform is then utilized to address family health and safe motherhood.

Uganda has established an extensive health care system with over 72% of all Ugandans living in a distance of 5km to the nearest health facility. But

challenges still abound as the country develops economically. For example, besides lack of adequate resources at household level to access better healthcare, many health facilities still lack adequate infrastructure, human resources and supplies to ensure delivery of quality and timely services.

Mrs Janet Museveni in her various capacities including being a Good Will Ambassador for Safe Motherhood in Uganda, has advocated for priority focus on health systems strengthening with specific focus on maternal care. She has engaged in resource mobilization including lobbying for increased government funding at parliament and cabinet levels, mobilized resources as an individual to set up maternity wings, nurtured partnerships that result in increased external aid to address women's health.



Rural women learning livelihood skills under NSWARU



Mrs. Museveni, Irish ambassador, UNICEF deputy representative, UNAIDS ED and American ambassador at a health center in Karamoja



Mrs. Museveni launching a renovated maternity wing in Kisooro district

Women's Socio-Economic Development and Health

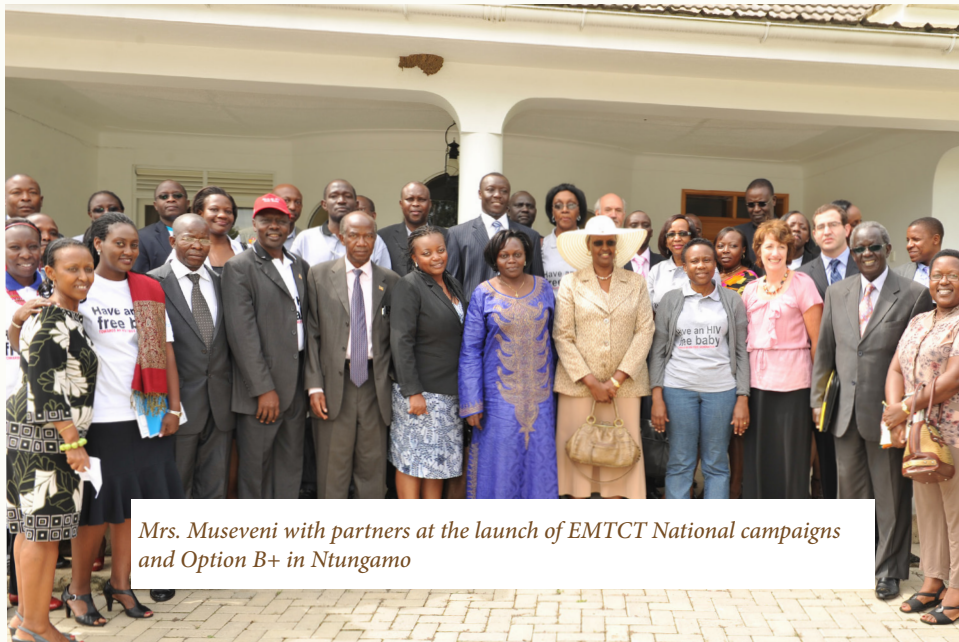
Elimination of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV (EMTCT)

Mother to child transmission of HIV accounts for about 20% of all new HIV infections in Uganda. It is estimated that without interventions for eliminating mother to child transmission (EMTCT), 30,000 babies would acquire infection from their mothers during pregnancy childbirth and breastfeeding.

The Ministry of Health formulated a policy on Option B+ in 2011 where all pregnant women who test HIV positive are enrolled in long-term antiretroviral therapy (ART) to prevent infection to the baby from pregnancy to end of breast feeding and also enhance the quality of life of the infected mother to raise a healthy family.

Mrs Janet Museveni in her various capacities but mainly as member of OAFILA, was established by national stakeholders as the national EMTCT champion in 2012.

She has since spearheaded a comprehensive campaign now launched in six out of the ten regions in the country.



Mrs. Museveni with partners at the launch of EMTCT National campaigns and Option B+ in Ntungamo



Launch of EMTCT campaign in Northern Uganda



Mrs. Museveni commissioning village maternal ambulances donated by UNFPA at EMTCT launch in West Nile



Mrs. Museveni launches EMTCT campaign in Kampala

Women's Socio-Economic Development and Health

Campaign launches involve expanded community education and mobilization for service uptake that has resulted in high access levels in those regions for HIV testing, antenatal visit and deliveries in health facilities, male circumcision, and other comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services.

Under this campaign the First Lady and the President of the Republic of Uganda with other national leaders have done public HIV testing which has inspired demand at community levels;.

The concerted EMTCT efforts since 2011, including the national EMTCT campaign, have translated into tangible results at service uptake and population levels. By end of 2013, 93% of all women attending antenatal were tested for HIV and received their results, 73% of about 90,000 mothers who tested HIV positive have been enrolled on ART.

The number of babies born with HIV infection has reduced from 28,000 in 2011 to about 9,000 by 2013.

Mrs. Museveni, The President and key National leaders taking public HIV tests



Partnerships for Expanded and Sustained Action

All programmes spearheaded or inspired by Mrs Janet Museveni are delivered through partnerships at various levels. She engages with community members to understand issues from their perspectives and outcomes from such dialogue feed into improved programming.

Mrs. Museveni has inspired front-line workers including health work, village health team members and those working in hard to reach areas through visits to their service stations and advocacy for focus on their welfare.

She works with religious and cultural leaders from different localities in their capacities as gatekeepers for social norms and values to mobilize communities for social change.



Mrs. Museveni in dialogue with mothers in Northern Uganda



Mrs. Museveni with State Minister of Health and religious leaders in Eastern Uganda



◀ Mrs. Museveni with health service providers in Kisoro



◀ Mrs. Museveni with winners of the pregnant women Community beauty contest

Partnerships for Expanded and Sustained Action

Mrs Janet Museveni has extensively worked with different government ministries, departments and districts to inspire action, establish progress and bottlenecks and advocate for expanded and sustained focus on women's and young people's issues.

Her programmes have been extensively supported or inspired other supported programmes in the country by various development agencies operating in Uganda. She has worked with many UN agencies including UNFPA, UNAIDS, UNICEF, WHO, UNDP, ILO, IFAD on various programmes including maternal health, adolescent and young people sexual reproductive health, immunization, health systems strengthening.

Other partners have included the American Government, Irish Aid, DFID.



Mrs. Museveni with international development partners including UN resident coordinator at a teenage health facility

Mrs. Museveni with ministers of health, development partners, district leaders, health workers and community members in West Nile



Mrs. Museveni with the UNAIDS ED and other development partners





Mrs. Museveni with her husband The President, their children and grand children

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MOVING FORWARD

Mrs Janet Museveni has committed to continue support to women, adolescents and young people programming in Uganda. Besides advocacy for systems strengthening and engagement in community mobilization for behaviour change and service uptake, she will put priority focus on the socio-cultural and economic factors that predispose women to ill-health and low productivity and those that impede young people from realizing their potential.

Her priority focus is on preventing negative consequences through intensified communication programmes to reduce on numbers of people who take uninformed or ill-advised life decisions that result in social and health concerns at individual and community levels.

She has specifically called for focus on empowering families to take the responsibility of nurturing young people with the necessary government support.

Hon Janet is a Family woman: wife, mother and grandmother. She has experienced parenting in the African setting and her contribution to women and young people's issues stems from the heart not necessarily the privileged positions. Newvision picture of HE/FS with family members









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