



UGANDA NETWORK ON LAW, ETHICS AND HIV/AIDS

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

ADVANCING JUSTICE, HEALTH, AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN UGANDA



UGANET
SOCIAL JUSTICE FOR HEALTH HIV AND GENDER

#UGANET4SocialJustice

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

Dear Partners, Stakeholders, and Friends of UGANET,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, it is my great privilege to present the Uganda Network on Law, Ethics and HIV/AIDS (UGANET) Annual Report for 2024.

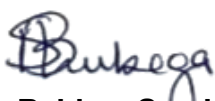
This report reflects a year of growth, community impact, and commitment to our founding vision: a Uganda free from Human Rights abuses in the context of health and HIV. As Board Chair, I have watched UGANET expand its reach across more than 36 districts, strengthened systems of accountability in health and justice service delivery, and supported vulnerable members of our society, People Living with HIV, survivors of Gender-Based Violence, urban refugees, fisherfolk communities, adolescent girls and young women, and persons with disabilities.

In 2024, UGANET demonstrated that justice is most powerful when it is brought closer to the people who need it. Through 62 community paralegals, 16 mobile legal aid camps, strengthened District Human Rights Committees, and the training of 38 lawyers in HIV-sensitive litigation, the organisation continued to turn rights into lived realities. The Prospects 2.0 Project in Kampala's informal settlements, the transition of SASA! Together communities from support to action in Kasese and Tororo, the National Dialogue on breaking the chains of stigma, and the sustained media and SRHR advocacy under the We Lead programme all stand as testament to strategic, community-rooted leadership.

The Board is particularly encouraged by the organisation's ability to integrate legal empowerment with health services, to champion platforms for accountability, and to maintain a survivor-centred, rights-based approach even in the face of routine challenges. These are not merely programme successes; they are evidence of the dedication of a committed staff team led by Executive Director Grace Nayiga.

As the Board, we remain focused on our core responsibilities of governance, strategic oversight, and ensuring organisational integrity. We have reviewed this Annual Report and are satisfied that it presents a true and fair account of UGANET's activities, achievements, challenges, and financial stewardship in 2024. We endorse its publication and dissemination. Looking ahead to 2025, the Board is confident that UGANET will build on these foundations — scaling what works, deepening partnerships, and continuing to amplify the voices of those most often left behind.

Together, we continue the journey toward a more just, healthy, and rights-respecting Uganda.
Yours sincerely,



Babiye Sarah Lubega

Chairperson, Board of Directors

Uganda Network on Law, Ethics and HIV/AIDS (UGANET)



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Partners, Friends, and Supporters,

2024 was a year of purposeful expansion, deep community engagement, and meaningful progress for the Uganda Network on Law, Ethics and HIV/AIDS (UGANET). Across multiple complementary programmes, the Global Fund GC7 grant implemented in partnership with TASO, the Prospects 2.0 Project with the Kampala Capital City Authority, Norwegian Refugee Council and UNHCR, the We Lead programme supported by Hivos, and our ongoing work to prevent Violence Against Women and Girls through SASA! Together, we advanced justice, health, and human rights for some of Uganda's most vulnerable populations.

We supported a network of 62 community paralegals across more than 31 districts, conducted 16 Mobile Legal Aid Camps that brought justice closer to people living with HIV and other priority groups, and trained 38 lawyers to litigate HIV-related matters with sensitivity and skill. We strengthened District Human Rights Committees as platforms for accountability, convened the National Dialogue on "Breaking the Chains of Stigma," and engaged fisherfolk communities on the unique rights and health challenges they face.

In Kampala's informal settlements, the Prospects 2.0 Project brought legal aid, psychosocial support, and protection services directly to refugees and host community members, while building the capacity of police, community leaders, and health workers. Through SASA! Together in Kasese and Tororo, we guided Community Activists and Leaders from the Support Phase into the Action Phase, equipping them to challenge harmful norms, mobilise collective action, and support survivors. Our GBV shelter provided safety, care, and pathways to healing for women and children who had nowhere else to turn.

At the same time, we invested in the power of voice and narrative. Through the We Lead programme, we trained journalists and social media influencers, created shared spaces for adolescent girls and young women to engage with the media, and amplified messages of rights, dignity, and accountability. Public commemorations, radio talk shows, and high-level dialogues further extended the reach of our advocacy.

Throughout the year, stigma was confronted, rights were asserted, and systems were strengthened. We faced logistical, cultural, and resource challenges, yet our commitment to community-led solutions never wavered. Every training, dialogue, outreach, mentorship visit, and partnership reinforced our core belief: justice is lived, defended, and shared at the grassroots level.



Thank you for walking this journey with us. In 2025, we will build on these foundations with even greater resolve, scaling what works, deepening partnerships, and continuing to stand with communities as they claim their rights and reshape their futures.

Yours sincerely,

Grace Nayiga
Executive Director - UGANET



About UGANET

For over three decades, the Uganda Network on Law, Ethics and HIV/AIDS (UGANET) has stood as a national champion for policy, legal, human rights, and ethical responses to HIV/AIDS and broader health challenges. We promote social justice by addressing gender inequality, stigma, discrimination, and barriers that prevent vulnerable populations, particularly people living with HIV (PLHIV), key populations, women, girls, refugees, persons with disabilities, and other marginalized groups, from accessing quality services and enjoying their full rights.

In 2024, UGANET expanded its reach and impact through the Global Fund GC7 grant, the Prospects 2.0 Project focused on urban refugees, the We Lead programme on SRHR and media advocacy, and continued community-based legal aid and human rights work. We leveraged community paralegals, legal aid structures, multi-stakeholder platforms, and strategic partnerships to bridge the gap between communities and duty bearers across the country.

Our Partners

We are deeply grateful to our partners who made the achievements of 2024 possible. Special thanks go to the Global Fund and TASO for the GC7 partnership; the Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA), UNwomen Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), and UNHCR for the Prospects 2.0 Project; and HIVOS for the We Lead programme.

We also appreciate the collaboration of district leaders, the Ministry of Health, Justice, Law and Order Sector (JLOS) institutions, Uganda Police, local civil society organizations, community structures, and media partners. Our committed staff, resource persons, paralegals, trained lawyers, interns, and volunteers delivered services with passion and professionalism amidst complex realities. Your collective support continues to strengthen UGANET's mission.

Program Areas for 2024

Our work centered on:

- Legal Aid & Community Justice
- GBV Prevention & Gender Equality
- HIV/TB Awareness, Advocacy & Rights
- Community Mobilization & Capacity Strengthening
- Refugee Protection and Urban Justice (Prospects 2.0)
- SRHR Advocacy and Media Engagement (We Lead)



Geographical Coverage

We operated in 36 districts spanning Western, Central, West Nile and Eastern Uganda, with targeted focus on lake-shore communities and other hard-to-reach areas. Regional mentorship hubs in Nakasongola, Iganga, and Kasese helped foster cross-district learning and coordination.

Stories of Impact in 2024

Legal Aid & Community Justice – Fostering Access to Justice

At the heart of UGANET's work stands a robust network of 62 trained community paralegals operating across more than 31 districts. These dedicated individuals, trained, mentored, and supported with monthly stipends, became trusted bridges between vulnerable community members and formal justice systems. They conducted home visits, client consultations, community outreaches, mediations, and timely referrals for issues ranging from gender-based violence and land disputes to HIV-related discrimination and access to health services. Their consistent presence and compassionate approach turned abstract rights into tangible support, restoring dignity and hope for countless families across the country.

Justice on the Move – Mobile Legal Aid Camps

Throughout 2024, UGANET's "Justice on the Move" initiative brought hope and practical solutions directly to communities through 16 Mobile Legal Aid Camps. These camps offered community members a vital opportunity to seek legal support, advice, and counselling from the dedicated legal team in a welcoming and accessible environment.

UGANET worked closely with district structures, including community development departments and local leaders, to ensure the camps were well-organized, culturally relevant, and responsive to local priorities. The camps adopted a powerful medical-legal approach, deliberately aligning with ART clinic days at health facilities and Health Centres. This integration allowed PLHIV to receive seamless, stigma-sensitive legal services alongside their routine medical care, removing barriers of distance, cost, and fear.

By meeting clients where they already sought health services, the camps created a holistic support system that addressed both legal and health needs in one visit. Many individuals received immediate guidance on GBV, inheritance, discrimination, and other pressing matters, while others were linked to further support. These efforts not only resolved individual cases but also strengthened trust between communities, health systems, and the justice sector, demonstrating that true access to justice flourishes when it walks hand-in-hand with healthcare.



Building a Network of Legal Practitioners: Opening Eyes to HIV Justice



One of the most transformative initiatives of the year was UGANET's training of lawyers in private practice to build a specialized network equipped to litigate HIV-related matters. Held in Jinja in November, the workshop brought together 38 lawyers and legal aid service providers with a clear purpose: to create a reliable pool of professionals willing to support vulnerable communities on a pro bono basis, significantly increasing the availability of skilled legal representation for PLHIV, key populations, and other marginalized groups.

The session was deeply reflective. Many advocates entered the room with general legal expertise but left with their perspectives profoundly shifted. Through interactive discussions and hands-on practical exercises, participants gained intimate knowledge of litigating HIV-related cases, covering issues such as stigma and discrimination, disclosure, confidentiality, access to treatment, and the intersection of health rights with existing laws.

Facilitators guided the lawyers through real-world scenarios, helping them view cases through a sensitive "HIV lens." Eyes were opened to the unique vulnerabilities and systemic barriers clients face. Participants engaged actively in role-plays and case simulations, practicing how to argue effectively while upholding dignity, protecting privacy, and challenging discriminatory practices in court and beyond.

By the end of the two days, a committed network had begun to form. These lawyers are now better prepared not only to win cases but to contribute to broader societal change—reducing stigma, strengthening legal protections, and ensuring that vulnerable communities have champions ready to stand with them. This initiative stands as a powerful step toward a more just and equitable legal landscape in Uganda.

Strengthening District Human Rights Committees (DHRCs) – A Powerful Alliance for Accountability



(The DHRC in Namutumba receiving reporting tools to enable their work)

Building on foundations laid during previous grant cycles, UGANET continued to nurture and support District Human Rights Committees (DHRCs) in 31 districts across the country. Originally established in 56 districts under NFM2, these committees have become indispensable community allies, bringing together a rich diversity of stakeholders, including community representatives, local government actors, police and law enforcement officers, judicial officers, and recipients of care.

Trained in case management and documentation, DHRC members diligently record human rights violations in their communities and submit quarterly reports to UGANET. This systematic documentation has proven invaluable in identifying patterns of abuse and driving targeted interventions.

What makes the DHRCs truly powerful is their multi-sectoral composition. By harnessing the expertise, resources, and skill sets of each member, the committees facilitate real-time case management, smooth referrals, and effective community engagements. Police officers provide security insights, judicial members offer legal guidance, local leaders mobilize communities, and health representatives ensure linkages to care. This collaborative spirit creates a strong support buffer for victims and ensures that no case falls through the cracks.

Through regular meetings and Semester Dialogues, DHRCs have become platforms for accountability, where duty bearers and communities hold meaningful conversations, resolve issues, and co-create solutions. Their work has eased the burden on formal systems while empowering local voices, making human rights protection a shared district responsibility rather than a distant ideal.

National Dialogue: Breaking the Chains of Stigma



Participants Pose for a Photo, National Dialogue, Imperial Royal Hotel, 10th December 2024, Kampala City

HIV-related stigma and discrimination continue to pose significant barriers to the well-being and rights of people living with HIV (PLHIV) in Uganda. The Uganda AIDS Commission (UAC) 2023 report highlighted an alarming resurgence of these challenges, calling for urgent and collective action. In response, UGANET, in collaboration with key stakeholders, organized the Annual National Dialogue on HIV, TB, Malaria, Human Rights and the Law.

On 10th December 2024, the dialogue took place at Fairway Hotel in Kampala. The event aligned with International Human Rights Day and carried a powerful, timely theme: **“Breaking the Chains of Stigma: Advancing Equal Rights and Dignity for People Living with HIV.”** This theme captured the urgent need to dismantle the deeply rooted barriers created by stigma and discrimination, while emphasizing the fundamental right of PLHIV to live with full dignity and enjoy equal access to opportunities, especially in the workplace and all spheres of life.

The National Dialogue brought together diverse stakeholders, policymakers, civil society, faith leaders, health workers, legal experts, and representatives of PLHIV networks, for honest reflection and constructive dialogue. Participants examined the resurgence of stigma, shared lived experiences, and explored practical strategies to advance rights-based responses. The conversations were both sobering and hopeful, reinforcing that ending stigma requires sustained policy advocacy, community engagement, strengthened legal protections, and cultural change.

By convening this platform, UGANET once again demonstrated its role as a key convener in Uganda’s HIV response, turning awareness into actionable commitments for a more equitable and dignified future for people living with HIV.

Empowering Fisherfolk Communities through Dialogue



A Section of Fisherfolk from Buikwe and Mukono Districts that attended the Dialogue, Jinja District, 5th to 9th Nov 2024

Fishing communities in Uganda face unique and often overlooked challenges. High mobility, harsh working conditions, limited access to services, and complex power dynamics make them particularly vulnerable to HIV, TB, and malaria, while also exposing them to human rights violations. Recognizing this, UGANET conducted the **second round of dialogues with Fisherfolk and Rights Holders** in the districts of Nakasongola, Mukono, Kalangala, Kayunga, Namayingo, Buikwe, and Mayuge.

A total of **159** participants drawn from these seven lake districts gathered in different district centres for open, honest conversations. The dialogues brought together fisherfolk, community leaders, fisheries protection units, local government actors, health workers, and other duty bearers.

Through these engagements, UGANET was able to clearly establish the main health-related issues affecting fishing communities, including barriers to HIV and TB service delivery, the impact of law enforcement practices, and the influence of cultural norms on prevention and care. Participants shared lived experiences that revealed gaps in response mechanisms and highlighted available support services, while also identifying critical areas needing urgent human rights interventions.

Beyond diagnosis, the dialogues served as empowerment platforms. UGANET enlightened communities on how to effectively demand improved service delivery and stronger public health responses. Participants gained valuable knowledge about relevant laws, human rights frameworks, and policies, equipping them with tools to advocate more confidently for their rights.

These dialogues strengthened relationships between fisherfolk and duty bearers, fostered mutual understanding, and laid the groundwork for more responsive, rights-based interventions in some of Uganda's most hard-to-reach and high-burden communities. They demonstrated UGANET's commitment to ensuring that no population is left behind in the journey toward health equity and dignity.

Advocating for SRHR and Timely Justice During 16 Days of Activism

During the global #16DaysOfActivism against Gender-Based Violence, UGANET amplified powerful calls for accessible Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) services and justice. "Everyone deserves access to affordable SRHR services and education. It's a right, not a privilege," the team declared, while another message emphasized that "Access to timely justice is a right for everyone!" These digital advocacy efforts reached wide audiences, empowering individuals with knowledge and inspiring collective demands for better healthcare and legal reforms.

Unleashing Potential at the Kampala Disability Festival

In November, UGANET's Executive Director and legal team joined the Kampala Disability Festival under the theme "Unleashing Potential: Empowering Persons with Disabilities Through Entrepreneurship and Innovation." Their active participation reinforced UGANET's commitment to inclusive justice and rights for persons with disabilities, particularly those living with HIV.

Driving Sustainable HIV Financing

UGANET contributed to the 3rd National Annual HIV Financing Dialogue, advocating for innovative models and increased domestic resources to ensure life-saving HIV services remain available and sustainable for all.



Philly Lutaaya Memorial Dinner – Honoring Everyday Heroes



(Winners of the Philly Lutaaya Award pause for a picture with UGANET Board representatives)

The December 13 Philly Lutaaya Memorial Lecture and Dinner was a moving celebration of resilience and legacy. UGANET honored outstanding individuals, including community paralegal Birungi Tinah from Kabarole, whose dedication embodied the fight against stigma. Inspiring reflections and performances reminded everyone that a generation free of HIV is within reach.

Protecting Dignity in the City – The Prospects 2.0 Project in Kampala Central Division

In the crowded streets and informal settlements of Kampala Central Division, places like Kagugube, Kisenyi II, Serwanga, Musajja Alumbwa, and Kisenyi III, Katwe, refugees and host community members live side by side under difficult conditions. Many have fled conflict and hardship only to face new threats: gender-based violence, child exploitation, and the silent weight of stigma. Limited resources, weak legal awareness, and deeply rooted cultural barriers often leave survivors without a clear path to safety or justice.

Between September and December 2024, UGANET, in consortium with the Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) and with support from the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and UNHCR, implemented the Prospects 2.0 Project. The four-month intervention was designed to strengthen local systems that protect refugees and host communities from violence and exploitation, in line with Uganda's Third National Development Plan and the Global Refugee Forum 2023 pledges.

At the heart of the project was a simple but powerful idea: justice and protection must come closer to the people who need them most. Through targeted legal aid community outreaches, UGANET's legal team and case workers reached more than **500** individuals. In these sessions, lawyers and community case workers sat with survivors of domestic violence, parents seeking custody of their children, and families entangled in property disputes. They offered free legal advice, drafted documents, and guided people through processes that once felt unreachable. In the dense settlements of **Kagugube** and **Kisenyi II**, the outreaches became trusted entry points for survivors of gender-based violence who had previously remained silent. In **Serwanga** and **Musajja Alumbwa**, women and children found the language and courage to report abuse. In **Kisenyi III**, **Katwe**, the team confronted cases of child labour and trafficking, opening pathways to justice and rehabilitation.

Community case workers formed the living bridge between the project and the people. Moving door to door, sitting in group discussions, and walking the same paths as the communities they served, they identified signs of abuse that might otherwise have gone unnoticed. Their presence built trust. Survivors felt safe enough to share painful stories. Case workers provided immediate psychosocial support, emphasized confidentiality, and made careful referrals to medical care, legal aid, and safe shelters. They also worked with local authorities and partner organizations to ensure children at risk of neglect or exploitation received timely attention.

Capacity building strengthened the wider system. **Four** training sessions reached **140** police officers, community leaders, and healthcare workers. Participants learned about legal frameworks, survivor-centred approaches, and practical case management. Partnerships with healthcare facilities, psychosocial support centres, and legal aid organizations created a collaborative network where knowledge and resources could flow more freely. By the end of the project, a stronger referral pathway for survivors of GBV and child abuse had taken shape. The project also invested in prevention. Case workers and community leaders conducted awareness sessions that challenged harmful norms around early marriage, gender inequality, and violence. Peer-led conversations among young people helped communities recognize risks before they escalated. Over **500** community members were reached through these sensitization efforts.

Despite the short timeframe, the results were tangible. Legal aid services were provided to **150** refugees and host community members. More than **500** people gained knowledge and confidence through sensitization. A more coordinated referral network began to function. Trust grew in communities that had long felt invisible to formal systems.

Challenges remained real, cultural resistance, limited resources, and the complexity of social security during sensitive case work. Yet the project demonstrated that even in a short period, a focused, multi-stakeholder approach can create meaningful change. By bringing legal services into the heart of informal settlements, training frontline responders, and amplifying the voices of survivors and community case workers, Prospects 2.0 helped plant seeds of protection and dignity in Kampala Central Division.

The work continues to remind us that when justice walks into the community, and when survivors are met with both compassion and competence, lives begin to shift. In the dense neighbourhoods of Kampala, UGANET and its partners showed that protection is not only a policy goal, it is a daily practice of presence, partnership, and care.

This story is ready to drop into the Annual Report under “Stories of Impact.” It follows the same reflective, narrative style as the earlier stories on paralegals, mobile camps, lawyer training, DHRCs, National Dialogue, and fisherfolk dialogues.

Gallery showing activities related to Prospects 2.0



The Community Leader explaining how GBV manifests in Kisenyi III



A KCCA Officer sharing experiences during a case workers' training



A group picture after the stakeholders engagement at Grand Global Hotel

Building a Network of Legal Practitioners: Opening Eyes to HIV Justice

SASA! Together – A Community-Led Journey Toward Change



(UGANET Staff undertaking a SASA! Together Training)

At the heart of UGANET's work to prevent Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) in Kasese and Tororo is the SASA! Together methodology, a proven, community-driven approach that supports people to rethink power, challenge harmful norms, and take collective action.

SASA! Together moves communities through carefully sequenced phases of awareness, support, and action. In this reporting period, UGANET guided Community Activists, Community Leaders, and Community Development Officers from the Support Phase into the Action Phase. This transition marked a critical milestone: communities were no longer only learning about violence, they were being equipped to formalise change, hold those who use violence accountable, support couples in the process of transformation, and sustain safer, more equal relationships over time.

Through intensive training, ongoing mentorship, community outreaches, public events, media engagement, and direct support to survivors, UGANET has continued to walk alongside communities as they claim their power to prevent violence and protect women and girls. The stories that follow capture the depth of this journey and the meaningful progress made between October and December 2025.

From Support to Action: Equipping Community Change-Makers



Participants in an Action phase training in Kasese

In 2024, UGANET guided communities in Kasese and Tororo through a critical transition, from the SASA! Together Support Phase into the Action Phase. This shift was more than a change in methodology; it marked a deepening of community ownership.

In **Kasese**, **323** Community Activists, Community Leaders, and Community Development Officers (**169** female, **175** male) were trained across all 21 sub-counties. In **Tororo**, **282** participants (**146** female, **136** male) received the same intensive preparation. The trainings focused on formalising collective power, holding those who use violence accountable, supporting couples in the process of change, and sustaining long-term transformation.

Participants reflected deeply on their own attitudes and behaviours. They learned how everyday actions can model respect, equality, and non-violence. Many left with renewed courage to confront Violence Against Women and Girls not as outsiders, but as trusted members of their own communities. This training marked a significant milestone: communities were no longer only receiving support, they were being equipped to lead lasting change.

Mentorship That Builds Confidence and Accountability

Throughout the quarter, UGANET staff walked alongside Community Activists and Leaders through regular on-site mentorship visits. In Kasese, **29** CAs and CLs (**16** female, **13** male) received direct support across nine sub-counties. In Tororo, seven mentorship visits reached **79** individuals (**38** female, **41** male) in seven sub-counties.

These visits focused on practical skills, improving case reporting, strengthening referral pathways, identifying women experiencing violence, and fostering community conversations about alternatives to violence. The result was greater community accountability and more proactive action. Women who once suffered in silence began finding support closer to home, while local leaders grew more confident in their role as protectors and advocates.

Communities Rising: Outreaches That Challenge Harmful Norms

Armed with new skills from the Action Phase trainings, Community Activists and Leaders moved into their communities with purpose. In Kasese, they directly engaged **11,121** people (**6,954** female and **4,167** male). In **Tororo**, outreaches reached 10,831 community members (**6,325** female and **4,506** male) across **19** sub-counties.

Through dialogues, drama, and everyday conversations, these change-makers promoted shared decision-making, equality, and respect. They challenged harmful social norms and created safe spaces for men, boys, women, and girls to reflect together. These outreaches demonstrated that prevention is most powerful when it is led by the community itself, one conversation, one gathering, one shifted mindset at a time.



Standing Together During 16 Days of Activism



(Dignitaries at the celebration of 16 days of Activism in Kasese district)

UGANET and its community structures played an active role in the 2025 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence. In Kasese, the organisation supported **62** Community Activists and Leaders (**26** male, **36** female) to participate in the National Launch, alongside Community Development Officers and a wide range of stakeholders. The event reflected strong multi-sectoral commitment to ending both physical and digital forms of violence.

In Tororo, UGANET joined the district and other partners under the theme “Ending Digital Violence Against Women and Girls,” reaching **371** participants. The organisation also took part in the Eastern Region Girls Summit and Run organised by Girls Not Brides Uganda, which attracted **312** people and focused on preventing teenage pregnancy and early marriage. Participation in the International Day of the Girl Child further amplified messages of protection and empowerment, reaching 85 participants.

These public moments of solidarity strengthened visibility, reinforced collective responsibility, and connected local activism to national and regional conversations.

Amplifying Voices Through Radio



Gender Officer Tororo in radio talk shows (Rock Mambo FM, East FM, and Rock City Radio) to create awareness on the dangers of GBV in families. The talk shows were organised by Tieng Adhola Cultural Institution, IJM and UGANET

In Tororo, UGANET participated in three radio talk shows on Rock Mambo, East FM, and Rock City Radio. An estimated **250,000** listeners (51% female, 49% male) heard clear messages about the forms and signs of GBV, available support services, and the importance of challenging harmful gender stereotypes. The talk shows encouraged communities to report violence and helped shift attitudes at scale, extending the reach of community activism far beyond physical gatherings.

A Safe Haven: The UGANET GBV Shelter



The UGANET social worker during one of the social work visits

During the quarter, the UGANET GBV shelter provided temporary accommodation to 15 survivors, including five children under nine, four adolescent girls, and six adults. Each survivor received basic medical support, including first aid and access to outpatient services.

Ten survivors benefited from individual and group psychosocial counselling.

One 25-year-old survivor received legal support to prepare and file court documents for maintenance and custody orders at Matugga Chief Magistrate's Court. By the end of the year, all 15 survivors had been carefully resettled, five in October, eight in November, and two in December — returning to safer environments with renewed hope.

The shelter stood as a quiet but powerful reminder that when survivors are met with safety, care, and practical support, healing becomes possible.

Strengthening the Web of Protection Through Coordination



A picture in Kasese district of a coordination meeting with district officials at UHURU 50 Hotel

UGANET actively participated in key multi-sectoral coordination meetings in both districts. In Kasese, engagements with IJM and ACTV focused on establishing a Network of Care for survivors and reviewing the GBV and Violence Against Children situation. In Tororo, four coordination meetings convened by Justice Centres Uganda and the District Local Government brought together government, cultural institutions, police, and civil society partners to address rising cases of violence against girls and teenage pregnancy linked to night discos at funerals.

These meetings strengthened referral pathways, improved information sharing, and reinforced collective commitment to survivor-centred response. They demonstrated that ending violence requires many hands working together.

Responding to Cases with Care and Accountability

In Kasese, 43 GBV and child protection cases were managed. Thirty-six were referred for further support, three to Justice Centres Uganda, 25 to the Police, and eight to Community Development Officers. Additional cases included the rescue of a child from early marriage (supported by FAWE), a lost-and-found referral to the Red Cross, 11 locally resolved cases of child neglect, and three defilement cases referred to Police.

Each case represented a life interrupted and a system responding. Through careful documentation, timely referral, and collaboration with partners, UGANET helped ensure that survivors were not left alone.

High-Level Dialogue on Urban Refugees



(A group picture with participants at the High level Dialogue)

UGANET convened a High-Level Dialogue on the human rights concerns of urban refugees in Kampala. Keynote Speaker Hon. Flavia Kabahenda highlighted that over 70% of refugees are children under 15, calling for tailored services to empower them as active citizens. The event generated practical recommendations for stronger protection and inclusion.

Equipping Journalists to Tell Stories That Protect Dignity

Throughout 2024, UGANET conducted ten carefully designed trainings for health reporters, senior journalists, and social media influencers. These sessions brought together over **150** media practitioners across different dates, creating a growing community of professionals committed to gender-responsive and rights-based reporting on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and HIV.

Participants did more than acquire knowledge. They shared challenges they face in newsrooms, reflected on language that either reinforces or dismantles stigma, and left with practical tools for progressive health reporting. The impact quickly became visible. Journalists began mentoring their colleagues, formed online learning groups to exchange stories and best practices, and produced more sensitive, accurate content. Stories published after the trainings, including features on menstrual hygiene in Karamoja and Teso, holistic healthcare approaches, and the experiences of survivors of sexual and gender-based violence, demonstrated a clear shift toward dignity-centered journalism.

These trainings did not end in the training room. They sparked a quiet but powerful movement of media professionals who now see themselves as partners in advancing the rights of adolescent girls and young women.

Creating Shared Spaces for Voices That Matter – Media Cafés

In September and later in the year, UGANET convened Media Cafés that brought together advocacy champions, adolescent girls and young women (AGYW), journalists, and social media influencers. One café welcomed **14** participants; another grew to **34**, including partners from the CSO coalition.



(UGANET Media café in session on 13th March 2024)

These were not ordinary meetings. They were intentional spaces where rights holders sat as equals with media professionals, sharing lived experiences and jointly shaping how SRHR and HIV issues are discussed in public. Young women living with HIV spoke openly about the barriers they face, while journalists listened, questioned, and committed to more responsible storytelling. The cafés strengthened relationships, built mutual accountability, and reminded everyone that meaningful change happens when those most affected lead the conversation.

Thinking Together for Better Outcomes – Bi-Annual Think Tanks



participants pause for a photo during a Biannual think tank

Twice during the year, UGANET hosted Bi-Annual Think Tanks on SRHR. Each gathering brought together around 20 participants, journalists, social media influencers, AGYW, and CSO partners. These sessions became reflective laboratories. Participants examined emerging challenges, tested ideas, and co-created solutions. The think tanks reinforced the value of continuous learning and collective problem-solving. By creating regular opportunities for rights holders and media actors to think together, UGANET nurtured a culture of shared ownership and sustained advocacy.

Amplifying Voices Through Digital Advocacy

Five contracted social media influencers worked closely with UGANET throughout the year, posting content on both their personal platforms and UGANET's channels. Between July and September alone, the effort generated one thousand new followers and a 9.2% engagement rate.

More importantly, rights holders began engaging actively. Messages of appreciation appeared on X (formerly Twitter), with users thanking influencers and UGANET for the information and support. These digital spaces became living extensions of the offline work, places where young people could access accurate information, feel seen, and join the conversation about their rights.

Leadership Recognition



@uganetlaw

Executive Director Grace Nayiga received an Appreciation Award from LASPNET Uganda for her exemplary service, celebrating the leadership that sustains UGANET's impactful work.

Governance

In 2024, the Board of Directors of UGANET continued to provide strategic leadership and oversight in line with the organisation's governance structure. The Board met regularly throughout the year to guide institutional direction, ensure accountability, and support management in advancing UGANET's mission.



(Mr. Abisa Joseph-M&E Lead makes a presentation to the UGANET Board during the board retreat in 2024)

A key highlight was the Board retreat held during the year. The retreat created space for deep reflection on organisational performance, emerging priorities, and the strengthening of internal systems. One of the major outputs was a comprehensive review of UGANET's existing policies. This process generated clear recommendations for the review and enactment of key organisational policies to enhance compliance, transparency, and operational effectiveness.



(A group picture of the UGNAET Board members during the Board retreat in 2024)

Through these engagements, the Board reaffirmed its commitment to sound governance, robust policy frameworks, and strategic guidance that enable UGANET to deliver impactful, rights-based programmes across the country.

A Season of Gratitude and Renewed Hope

As the year drew to a close, UGANET reflected with deep gratitude, thanking all who contributed to a year of justice and equity. Holiday messages of love, giving, and steadfast commitment reminded everyone that collective support fuels lasting change as we step confidently into 2025.



(A group picture of the UGNAET Board members during the Board retreat in 2024)

Our Impact in Numbers (2024 Highlights)

Table showing UGANET Interventions and Outputs in 2024

Thematic Area / Project	Key Activity	Result / Number Reached
Community Paralegals	Paralegals supported with monthly stipends	62
	Refresher trainings for paralegals (regional)	3
District Human Rights Committees	Districts with active DHRCs	31
	Quarterly DHRC meetings held	85
	Semester Dialogues held	59
	Participants in 2-day refresher training for DHRCs	145
Mobile Legal Aid Camps	Mobile Legal Aid Camps conducted	16
	Post-camp case follow-ups	16
	Radio talk shows	10
	IEC materials procured	184
Network of Lawyers Trained in HIV & Law	Lawyers & legal aid providers trained	38
	National workshop held	1
National Events (GC7)	National Dialogue on HIV, TB, Malaria, Human Rights & the Law	86
	Philly Lutaaya Memorial Day Celebrations	110
Fisherfolk Dialogues	Dialogues held with fisherfolk & duty bearers	4
	Participants in fisherfolk dialogues	159
Bi-annual Mentorship Visits	Regional mentorship visits conducted	6

Prospects 2.0	Individuals reached through legal aid	500+
	Legal aid services provided to refugees &	150
	Community members reached through	500+
	Stakeholders trained (police, community	140
	Training sessions conducted	4
SASA! Together - Kasese	CAs, CLs & CDOs trained in Action Phase	323 (169F, 175M)
	Community members reached through	11,121 (6,954F, 4,167M)
	CAs/CLs mentored	29
	Participants supported for 16 Days of Activism	62
	GBV & child protection cases managed	43
SASA! Together -Tororo	CAs, CLs & CDOs trained in Action Phase	282 (146F, 136M)
	Community members reached through	10,831 (6,325F, 4,506M)
	CAs/CLs mentored	79
	Participants in 16 Days of Activism event	371
	Participants in Girls Summit & Run	312
	Participants in International Day of the	85
	Estimated radio listeners reached	250,000

GBV Shelter	Survivors accommodated	15
	Survivors who received	10
	Survivors who received medical	15
	Survivors resettled	15
	Survivors who received legal	7
We Lead - Media & SRHR Advocacy	Trainings for journalists & social	10
	Media practitioners trained	150+
	Media Cafes held	2
	Bi-Annual Think Tanks held	2
	High-level meeting participants	53 (including 6 MPs)
	New social media followers	1,000
	Engagement rate on social media	9.20%

Financial performance

Uganda Network on Law, Ethics and HIV/AIDS (UGANET)
Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2024

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	Notes	2024 UGX	2023 UGX
Assets			
Non-Current Assets			
Property and equipment	15	335,307,131	458,999,584
Work in progress	11	846,565,783	834,604,783
Total Non-Current Assets		1,181,872,914	1,293,604,367
Current Asset			
Receivables	12	19,484,865	114,057,128
Cash & cash equivalents	13	1,270,027,241	1,621,641,109
Total Current Assets		1,289,512,106	1,735,698,237
Total Assets		2,471,385,020	3,029,302,604
Funds and Liabilities			
Accumulated Funds		2,191,123,190	2,738,443,463
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Payables	14	280,261,830	290,859,141
Total Current Liabilities		280,261,830	290,859,141
Total Reserves and Liabilities		2,471,385,020	3,029,302,604

The notes on pages 20 to 29 form an integral part of these Financial Statements

Report of the Independent Auditor – pages 13 to 15

The Financial Statements were approved by the Board of Directors on August 29, ... 2025
and were signed on its behalf by:


Chairperson Board of Directors




Executive Director

Challenges

Despite significant progress, UGANET faced several challenges in 2024. These included logistical hurdles in reaching remote and island communities, seasonal factors affecting participation, deeply rooted cultural barriers to reporting gender-based violence and child protection issues, resource constraints, and the complexity of ensuring safety and confidentiality during sensitive case interventions. Administrative transitions and the need for continuous system strengthening also required adaptive responses. These challenges tested our resilience while sharpening our strategies and partnerships.

Lessons Learned

Several important lessons emerged from the year's work. Empowered communities, particularly through paralegals, District Human Rights Committees, and community case workers, drive sustainable change. Integrating legal aid with health services (such as ART clinic days) creates powerful synergies and improves access. Multi-stakeholder platforms, whether DHRCs, Media Cafés, or high-level dialogues, build trust, accountability, and collective ownership. Rights-based, survivor-centered, and community-led approaches consistently deliver the deepest and most lasting impact. Short-term projects can still plant meaningful seeds when grounded in strong partnerships and local presence.

Appreciations

To our Board, staff, paralegals, lawyers, community case workers, District Human Rights Committees, partners, donors, media allies, and the communities we serve, thank you. Your courage, dedication, and collaboration made 2024 a year of real transformation. Together, we continue building a fairer, healthier, and more just Uganda.



UGANET Board Approval

The Board of Directors of the Uganda Network on Law, Ethics and HIV/AIDS (UGANET) has reviewed the Annual Report for the period January – December 2024.

We confirm that the report fairly presents the organisation's activities, achievements, challenges, and financial stewardship during the reporting period. The Board is satisfied that the information contained herein is accurate, complete, and consistent with UGANET's mandate of advancing Human Rights, Access to Justice, and social protection in the context of health, HIV, and gender.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I hereby approve this Annual Report for publication and dissemination to our partners, stakeholders, and the public.



Babirye Sarah Lubega
Chairperson, Board of Directors
Uganda Network on Law, Ethics and HIV/AIDS (UGANET)
Date: 02/2/2025





Uganda Network on Law, Ethics and HIV/AIDS (UGANET)
Plot 19 Valley Road
Ministers' Village, Ntinda
P.O. Box 70269
Kampala, Uganda
Tel: +256 414 574 531 | +256 774 199 374
Email: info@uganet.org
Website: www.uganet.org