The Young & Alive Summit 2026 Concept Note

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BACKGROUND

Tanzania has a predominantly young population, with over 70% of its citizens classified as youth according to the 2022 Tanzania National Census (National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). This demographic trend presents a significant opportunity and a pressing responsibility to invest in young people as key drivers of national development. However, despite their numerical strength, adolescents and young people continue to face persistent challenges across health, social, and economic sectors.

Access to quality, youth-friendly, and inclusive Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) services, as well as mental health care, remains limited. At the same time, opportunities for meaningful youth engagement in decision-making processes are often insufficient. Although young people are central to Tanzania's development agenda, youth-led initiatives continue to be underfunded and inadequately prioritised within national policies and investment frameworks.

Recent shifts and reductions in funding have further exacerbated these challenges, weakening existing platforms that amplify youth voices and support community-level interventions. As a result, many local issues affecting young people remain unaddressed, and their potential contribution to sustainable development is significantly constrained.

To address these gaps, young people must be included and actively engaged as integral partners throughout all stages of planning, coordination and implementation. Without their meaningful participation, progress in areas such as gender equality, health equity and youth empowerment risks stagnation or reversal.

Since its inception in 2022, the YAI Summit has emerged as a key structured platform that convenes young people from the grassroots to the national level through community dialogues and regional engagements. This sustained momentum has strengthened peer-to-peer collaboration, elevated grassroots leadership, and enhanced coordination among stakeholders. As a result, the Summit has played a critical role in ensuring that youth perspectives remain central to identifying challenges and co-creating responsive, locally driven solutions.

During the 2023 and 2024 (Video links) Young and Alive Summit achieved the following.

YAI SUMMIT 2023 -DODOMA

I. **Intergeneration Community Dialogues:** We engaged over 975 young leaders across six regions in community dialogues focused on expanding access to youth-friendly SRHR services, including STI screening and mental health integration.

II. **Policy Dialogues** : Promoted discussions on SRH and youth wellbeing through relevant national frameworks including the National Youth Policy (2007) and the National Accelerated Investment Agenda for Adolescent Health and Wellbeing (NAAIA).

III. **Digital Innovation**: Digital outreach further amplified the Summit's impact, reaching 135,510 people via Instagram and 128,00 via Facebook.

IV. **Main Summit Participation**:Over 389 summit participants expressed interest in participating as delegates during the 2023. With support from partners we were able to support about 150 delegates for the 3 days intensive summit.

V. **Movement Building:** Establishment of the YAI Network with all 150 participants expressing interest in joining a community of like-minded individuals committed to advancing youth development and SRHR; **40%** joined through their **organizations**, while **60%** joined **individual** membership.

VI. **Capacity Building**: The ministry of health trainer facilitated a four days training workshop in the summit with young health care providers on provision of adolescents and young people friendly services.

VII. **Creative Expression:** Creative arts were used throughout the Summit as tools for learning, reflection, and advocacy. With a powerful drama performance from Tanzania Arts Feminist that highlighted health, social, and economic benefits of Family Planning for women, children, and families.

VIII. **ONSITE SERVICE PROVISION:** More than 280 receive the services from the participants and from the surrounding community. FP (counseling 279, 249), Mental health (screening 59) Cervical screening 102, Blood donation 25 and HIV/AIDs testing 7.

YAI SUMMIT 2024 -ARUSHA

1. **Intergeneration Dialogues** :The summit achieved massive nationwide mobilisation, engaging over 1,500 adolescents, youth, and community members across 13 regions during its vibrant pre-summit dialogues.
2. **Attendance & Mobilization:** The grassroots momentum culminated in the main event at Arusha, which brought together more than 314

delegates representing different regions of Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar.

3. **Advocacy & Policy Impact:** A major milestone of the summit was the formulation of the collective Summit Position Paper, which detailed vital youth demands on expanding youth-friendly SRHR services, comprehensive post-abortion care, gender-based violence response, and mental health integration. This blueprint was officially presented to and received by Dr. Seif Abdalah Shekalaghe, Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender, Women & Special Groups, who reaffirmed the government's commitment to addressing these challenges.
4. **On-Site Health Service Delivery:**The summit successfully integrated immediate clinical care, providing essential on-site health services to over 400 delegates. Direct clinical outcomes included delivering 100+ HIV counseling and testing sessions, 237 family planning and contraceptive services, 105 vision care consultations, and 32 specialized mental health therapy sessions.
5. **Movement Building & Leadership:**The event served as a critical movement-building milestone by gathering more than 120 youth-led organisations for the Young & Alive Network General Meeting. During this session, the network formalised its national governance structure by adopting its official constitution and democratically electing its core leadership positions, including Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and General Secretary.
6. **Capacity Building & Grassroots Innovation:**Young leaders sharpened their advocacy skills through specialised workshops covering SMART advocacy, mental health integration, climate change, and digital innovation. Furthermore, the *Vibe na Mchongo* session connected youth with career mentorship and funding opportunities, while the ICFP Grassroots Action Leaders Pitch Competition awarded Idrisa Amri for an innovative project dedicated to creating safe spaces for girls.

INTRODUCTION

The Young & Alive Summit is a flagship platform that brings together young leaders, policymakers, advocates and development partners to drive youth-led solutions in Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), mental health, gender justice and youth empowerment.

This national-level summit is a culmination and celebration of bold actions, powerful voices, and inspiring stories gathered from small grassroots conversations to regional movements, demonstrating the strength and impact of youth-led initiatives across Tanzania.

Building on the momentum generated since 2022, the Summit has evolved into a critical space for connecting grassroots experiences through community dialogues to national-level dialogue and decision-making. It has consistently centred youth voices, strengthened peer collaboration, and fostered coordinated action among diverse stakeholders working to advance the well-being and rights of young people.

In the context of shifting and declining funding landscapes, the role of the YAI Summit has become increasingly critical. Beyond amplifying youth voices, it serves as a strategic platform for influencing investment priorities, mobilising resources, and strengthening accountability toward youth-focused development. The Summit, therefore, plays an important role in ensuring that youth-led initiatives are not only visible but also adequately supported and sustained.

The YAI Summit does not wait for youth to be invited into the conversation. It builds the room.The summit 2026 will be in Dar Es Salaam the venue will be communicated soon.

2026 Summit goal

To foster meaningful youth engagement, strengthen partnerships, and scale up an existing integrated national youth platform that promotes youth leadership, policy influence, and investment in youth-led solutions to improve the health, well-being, and development outcomes of adolescents and young people in Tanzania.

SUMMIT OBJECTIVES

1. **Advocacy and leadership**

   To build the capacity of youth as advocates and leaders who can influence SRHR policies, challenge harmful norms and drive change in communities through social accountability platforms.

2. **Creative expression.**

   To leverage the platform where young people can creatively express their voices on SRHR through the arts, storytelling, and performance, fostering dialogue, reducing stigma, and inspiring youth-led advocacy.

3. **Movement strengthening.**

   To expand, strengthen and sustain the YAI network, fostering cross-sector collaboration and digital knowledge sharing to drive collective accountability across regions of Tanzania.

4. **Service delivery**

To improve awareness and utilisation of clinical services, including youth-friendly family planning services, and mental health support by linking young people with service providers and promoting responsive and inclusive care.The young people

5. **Partnership and collaboration**

   To convene multi-sectoral partners for collective, inclusive and equitable partnership through learning and resource mobilisation toward advancing grassroots initiatives.

Agenda Setting

The agenda will be developed through a participatory and consultative process led by the YAI network, with a strong emphasis on community dialogues conducted across various regions of Tanzania. These dialogues will be facilitated at the sub-national level by the YAI staff in collaboration with YAI networks, local NGOs, partners and other stakeholders. Through these engagements, young people in different regions will be actively involved in identifying and prioritising key issues affecting their health and development.

In addition, YAI network will undertake a comprehensive review of existing policies, programs, and research related to youth health and development. This review will help identify gaps, overlaps, and opportunities for strategic intervention.

Insights gathered from both the community dialogues and the policy review will inform the development of a draft agenda that reflects the diverse priorities and lived experiences of young people. The draft will be shared widely with young people and relevant stakeholders for validation and feedback. The final agenda will then be refined based on this input, ensuring it is inclusive, representative, and responsive to the needs of young people.

Summit Structure

Intergenerational Community Dialogues.

The Intergenerational Community Dialogues are a structured, youth-led consultative process conducted across multiple regions of the country in the weeks and months leading up to the main Summit. They serve as the foundational pillar of the entire Summit process, ensuring that the national

advocacy agenda presented at the Summit is not constructed from the top down, but is instead built from the lived realities, priorities, and recommendations of young people at the community level.

The dialogues are deliberately decentralised. Rather than bringing young people to a central location before they are ready, the process goes to them, meeting communities where they are, in settings they trust, and in a language and format that reflects their context. This approach is what gives the Summit its credibility and its claim to represent the voices of young people nationwide truly.

- Map the AYSRH landscape of the region.
- Capture the authentic voices and lived experiences of young people.
- Identify regional priorities for the national agenda.

MAIN SUMMIT

The 2026 main Summit is the national anchor of the Youth AYSRH and Primary Health movement. This will serve as a high-level interface where the evidence and priorities gathered from local grassroots dialogues are translated into direct policy action at the national level by producing an advocacy asks. The summit will target to bring together more than 250 delegates. The summit will be conducted for three days, an immersive convening designed to move participants from dialogue to commitment. The overview will look as follows:

- **Ground setting and Voicing:** This will be during the opening and closing days. On opening involves the decision makers to understand the aim of the summit and during the closing to get the action includes advocacy asks and road map of post summit it
- **Workshops:** Covering essential topics like SMART Advocacy, SRHR, and Mental Health and Innovation.
- **Plenaries and Breakout Sessions:** Focused on best practices in youth programming, policy & advocacy, and experience sharing from community grassroots initiatives.
- **Creative Expression Showcases:** Utilising arts and storytelling to challenge harmful social norms, reduced SRHR stigma, and humanise health data through youth creativity
- **Integrated service Delivery and opportunities:** On-site services such as family planning, vaccination, mental health screening, and counselling, job/learning opportunities
- **Partners Meeting and Resource Mobilization:** bringing partners together to align support and mobilize resources behind the summit's advocacy asks and roadmap.

Timeline / Implementation Plan.

- Task force meeting (**June and september**)
- Intergenerational community dialogues (**May 2026 - August 2026**)
- YAI network and Stakeholders committee meetings towards summit (**July - september**)
- The summit Event: October (**second week**) (**11th October**) **Pre summit** (**12th to 14th**) **Summit Events (15th to 16th**) **Post Summit .**

(See attached Annex 1: TIMELINE)

Target group(s)

- **Primary target**: Adolescents and Young people (10 - 24 yrs), particularly those from the most vulnerable and underserved communities.
- **Primary target**: Young leaders (15 - 35 yrs) who are passionate about addressing SRHR challenges in their communities. These are peer educators, young champions, student leaders, young entrepreneurs, young professionals, youth grassroot leaders and creative artists, just to mention a few.
- **Secondary Target**: Youth partners(In health and development) This includes work with youth directly both in health and development. Like funders, sponsors , Donors and Government.
- **Secondary Target** : Gatekeepers: Decision makers, policymakers, and community gatekeepers (local leaders, traditional and religious leaders, etc)

Expected Deliverables & Outcome

Delivarables

I. **Services provision**- to young leaders and youth attendees, as well as the community surrounding the event area.
II. **Youth voices/issues** — collected from the community during dialogues, to inform advocacy and implementation.
III. **Solutions and innovations** — captured throughout the journey to the summit and during the summit event days

IV. **Partners meeting outcomes** — documented commitments, agreements, and joint action points from stakeholder/partner meetings held alongside the summit, to guide collaboration and resource mobilisation going forward.
V. **Creative expression outputs** — arts, storytelling, and performance content produced to challenge harmful norms, reduce SRHR stigma, and humanise health data.

OUTCOME

I. Increased youth participation in FP & SRHR systems, policies, spaces, and other decision-making and accountability platforms.
II. Increased investment in youth-led solutions and creativity.
III. Improved access to and utilisation of youth-friendly services and information.
IV. Improved collaboration and resource mobilisation approaches across stakeholders.
V. Enhanced knowledge sharing among partners, strengthening the national youth movement in health and well-being.
VI. Strengthened national youth movement both formal and informal in health and well-being.
VII. Policy/institutional embedding as youth-led advocacy agenda embedded into the work plans of the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Youth.

Monitoring & Evaluation Framework

The summit's monitoring and evaluation system is guided by a comprehensive plan and built on a results-based logical framework, with a live Indicator Performance Tracking Tool (IPTT) enabling real-time adaptive management. Core methods include participant registration, pre- and post-summit surveys, workshop assessments, anonymised service tally sheets, rights-based exit interviews administered by trained Youth M&E Champions, social network analysis, and outcome harvesting.

Key accountability targets include: 400+ youth reached through intergenerational community dialogues, 250 + delegates at the main summit, at least three concrete policy actions in response to the position paper within 12 months, and 90% of service users reporting respectful, non-judgmental care. All

data collection follows strict ethical protocols including informed consent, anonymity, and encrypted storage, with findings synthesised into a final evaluation report shared with all partners.

(See attached Annex 2: Log frame)

Sustainability Plan

To ensure the Summit's impact continues long after the event, we secure its future through three practical pillars:

1. Government Task force: This is the Task force that supports smooth preparation and also the follow up of the achievement and advocacy asks. The task force also play role during the summit. It is composed of all ministries working with youths.
2. Government priorities and Policy Alignment:We will embed the youth-led advocacy agenda directly into the existing work plans of the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Youth, ensuring these priorities receive long-term, state-level institutional support.
3. Operational Continuity (The Youth Network): The summit is not a standalone event; it is an engine for the formalised Young & Alive Network. Guided by its own constitution and elected leadership, this network takes ownership of post-summit implementation to ensure grassroots action scales year-round.
4. Resilient Resource Mobilisation: We are shifting from event-specific donor reliance to an ecosystem funding model. By securing multi-sectoral MoUs, engaging the private sector, and leveraging domestic resources (such as the Tanzania Youth Development Fund), we ensure joint accountability and a diversified financial base for the host organisation and network.

Partnership and Sponsorship Opportunities

We invite like-minded organisations, corporations, and philanthropic institutions to join us in shaping the future. By partnering with us, you are not just funding an event; you are investing in a sustainable, youth-led movement with visible change.
Below are the tailored pathways through which your agency or organisation can engage, maximise its visibility, and drive measurable impact;

1. Strategic Program Partnership

- Co-Facilitation of Community Dialogues: Lead or co-host grassroots and regional dialogues leading up to the summit. This positions your

organisation as a thought leader at the forefront of community-driven solutions.

- Program Co-Design: Contribute directly to the architecture and delivery of the overall summit programme, ensuring your organisation's priority themes are integrated into the global agenda.
- Technical expertise Integration: Embed your senior specialists into panels and working groups to guide the technical outputs of the summit.

2. Targeted session & workshop sponsorship

- Thematic track ownership: Exclusively sponsor a specific thematic pillar or workshop series.
- What you get: Sole branding of the session room/virtual hub, opening remarks delivered by your representative, and a dedicated summary report feature highlighting your organisation's commitment to that specific cause.

3. Inclusive Representation: Youth delegate fellowship

- Sponsor a Delegate: Direct financial support to cover travel, accommodation, and registration logistics for youth leaders from underrepresented or marginalised communities.
- The Impact: Your funding directly ensures inclusive representation. Sponsors will receive a post-summit impact report detailing the journey and contributions of the specific delegates they supported, alongside opportunities for direct mentorship or networking.

4. Core Resource & Infrastructure Sponsorship

For foundational partners looking for maximum brand alignment and operational impact.

- Provide the core funding necessary to scale the summit's reach, enhance hybrid/digital streaming infrastructure, and ensure high-production execution.
- Provision of software licenses, venue spaces, media broadcasting support, or catering.

(See attached Annex 3: Sponsorship package)

Budget Summary

The estimated total investment required to execute the 2026 Young & Alive Summit is **220,110,000 TZS** (approximately **$83,643 USD**). This budget covers the entire summit lifecycle, from the six-zone regional community dialogues to the national-level convening.

Core Budget Allocation:

- **Venue & Logistics:** 35%
- **Travel & Accommodation:** 20%
- **Program Activities (Creative Arts, Workshops, Dialogues):** 15%
- **Personnel & Administration:** 10%
- **Contingency & Miscellaneous:** 5%
- **Communications & MERL:** 10%
- **Post Summit Activities** - 5%

(See attached Annex 3: Sponsorship package)

Impact

Partnering with the Young & Alive Summit enables organisations to contribute to a meaningful, positive impact in the lives of adolescents and young people across Tanzania. In return, partners gain valuable opportunities to scale their reach and connect with current and future clients and strategic stakeholders. This year's summit is projected to engage over 400 adolescents and young people through nationwide community dialogues, alongside the participation of more than 200 youth delegates who will convene in Dar es Salaam.

CALL TO ACTION.

1. **Partners:** Join us in building a stronger future for Tanzania's young people. Your partnership will help amplify youth voices, strengthen community action, and support sustainable youth-led solutions that improve SRH and development outcomes.
2. **Youth:** We call upon young people to participate through community dialogues to the summit, share their experiences, influence national conversations, and become part of a growing movement advancing SRHR and opportunities for youth across Tanzania.
3. **Government:** We call upon government institutions at national and sub-national levels to continue prioritizing meaningful youth engagement, invest in youth-led initiatives and work alongside young people to develop responsive policies and programs that address their SRHR needs.

ANNEXES