

# Voices OF HOPE

## Uganda

In the Wakiso district of Central Uganda, children under the age of 18 years old make up 53% of the population. During COVID-19, school closures affected approximately 15 million students, and many did not return. Leaving school early can trap people in a cycle of poverty and limits access to essential services, including those related to sexual and reproductive health and rights.

PWRDF is supporting a fifth phase of a project in partnership with Action for Rural Women's Empowerment (ARUWE), which aims to reduce the rates of teenage pregnancy in Wakiso through education, training and increased access to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) services. PWRDF is supporting this phase of the ongoing project – which will run until 2026 – with a total \$210,000 to build on previous successes.

This new project phase builds on previous works. Activities include equipping students with knowledge and skills on the reproductive system, puberty, body image and sexuality, sexuality and relationships, assertiveness and self-esteem, coping with emotions, effective communication, problem-solving skills, resistance to peer pressure and critical thinking skills. Students are also being educated on the dangers, effects and prevention of teenage pregnancies.




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