



Annual Report 2023



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Message from the Board Chairman



I am honored to present InPact's 2023 annual report, which outlines a year of remarkable progress and significant achievements across our organization. It is a testament to the dedication and hard work of our staff, partners, and supporters, and I am proud of the strides we have made in our mission to drive positive change among targeted communities.

One of the most pivotal milestones this year was the launch of InPact's new 3-year Strategic Plan for 2023-2026. This comprehensive roadmap outlines our commitment to community development in the areas of primary health care, climate change mitigation and adaptation, social enterprise development, and institutional capacity strengthening. The strategic plan is a living document that ensures alignment with our vision and mission and positions us to better serve the communities we engage with.

InPact has made notable advances on the governance front, reinforcing our internal governance structures, policies, and practices. Our organization conducted comprehensive reviews of our constitution, board charter, and operational policies, promoting transparency, accountability, and operational effectiveness. The development of a new strategic plan and the establishment of a robust monitoring and evaluation system have set the stage for greater impact and effectiveness in our work.

This year, InPact secured funding from new donors, including the Confluence Institute and USAID/Civil Society Strengthening Activity, allowing us to expand our project portfolio and enhance our impact. The successful implementation of projects like the EcoSmart Project and the Local Service Delivery Activity also demonstrates our ability to leverage new partnerships and resources for the benefit of the communities we serve.

We have also focused on strengthening our operational efficiency. By leveraging the technical assistance provided by the USAID/Civil Society Strengthening Activity, we have enhanced our staff competencies in project design, implementation, management, monitoring and evaluation, and advocacy. This has positioned us for sustainable growth and improved outcomes across our programs.

Our commitment to institutional capacity strengthening has been evident in the strides we have made in enhancing our staff's technical capabilities, increasing our ability to design, implement, and monitor impactful programs. This investment in our people and processes has contributed to improved outcomes and enabled us to better compete for funding opportunities.

As we look ahead, InPact remains dedicated to achieving our strategic objectives and serving the communities we work with. I extend my deepest gratitude to our team, partners, and supporters for their invaluable contributions this year. Together, we will continue to build on our successes and drive meaningful, lasting change.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Kenneth Nyehoora Mugumya
Chairman

Message from our Executive Director



As I introduce InPact's 2023 annual report, I am thrilled to highlight the remarkable achievements and positive impact our organization has made over the past year. This year marks a pivotal moment in InPact's journey, as we launched our new 3-year Strategic Plan for 2023-2026. This comprehensive plan sets the stage for transformative community development in the areas of primary health care, climate change mitigation and adaptation, social enterprise development, and institutional capacity strengthening. Our strategic vision is a living document that will guide our ongoing efforts to facilitate positive change among targeted communities and ensure alignment with our mission.

The annual report provides an in-depth overview of the key activities, achievements, and impact we have accomplished across various focus areas. Through innovative projects and strategic partnerships, we have extended our reach to increase access to equitable primary health care services, support nature-based and climate-smart innovations, foster livelihood opportunities, and enhance our institutional capacity for efficiency and effectiveness.

One of the year's highlights was our work under the Institutional Capacity Optimization Project. With USAID's support, we strengthened our organizational capacity across governance, operations, and technical capabilities. This initiative empowered our staff and leadership, fostering a culture of continuous improvement and enabling us to deliver our programs more effectively.

Our EcoSmart Project, funded by the Confluence Institute and the Foundation for Community Development and Empowerment, made notable progress in enhancing climate resilience and livelihoods in water-stressed communities in Kibaale District. From providing access to safe water and sanitation services to training youth in nature-friendly income-generating activities, this project demonstrates our commitment to sustainable development.

In the health sector, our USAID-funded Local Service Delivery Activity focused on enhancing HIV and TB treatment and care in Kanungu and Rukungiri districts. The impact of our work is evident in the increased access to essential services and the improvement in health outcomes for key and priority populations.

Moreover, our Mental Health Support Program, in partnership with StrongMinds Uganda, expanded access to mental health services, particularly targeting marginalized communities and high-risk groups. By providing depression screening and therapy, we have improved the well-being of thousands of individuals, fostering a stronger, healthier society.

Through the Yerinde Project, we advocated for increased funding and scale-up of HPV vaccination services. This effort led to substantial improvements in vaccination coverage and awareness, paving the way for the elimination of vaccine-preventable diseases.

InPact's commitment to increasing the uptake of family planning services in Kibaale and Kyankwanzi districts through the Family Planning Activity has been met with significant success. Our focus on community engagement and strengthening community-facility linkages has led to healthier timing and spacing of pregnancies, contributing to better health outcomes for individuals and families.

As we reflect on the accomplishments outlined in this report, we remain steadfast in our mission to serve communities and achieve our strategic goals. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated team, partners, and supporters for their continued collaboration and unwavering commitment to positive change.

Together, we will continue to build a brighter future for all.


Emily Katarikawe
Executive Director – InPact Uganda



Annual Report

2023



Impactful achievements
and meaningful progress

2023



Primary
healthcare
+



Climate change
mitigation and
adaptation
+



Social enterprise
development
+



Institutional capacity
strengthening

Our focus

We are pleased to present InPact's 2023 annual report, highlighting a year of impactful achievements and meaningful progress across our diverse focus areas. As an organization committed to driving positive change within targeted communities, our work spans primary health care, climate change mitigation and adaptation, social enterprise development, and institutional capacity strengthening. Through our recently launched 3-year Strategic Plan for 2023-2026, we have charted a course for our organization to continue addressing the most pressing needs of the communities we serve while adapting to evolving challenges and opportunities.

At the heart of our approach is a steadfast commitment to collaboration, evidence-based practices, and a holistic understanding of community development. We work closely with local partners, stakeholders, and government agencies to ensure our initiatives are responsive to the needs of the people we serve. This inclusive approach fosters strong partnerships and empowers local communities to actively participate in creating sustainable solutions.

In 2023, we have successfully implemented a wide range of projects that align with our strategic plan and vision. Notably, our work in family planning, mental health support, and HIV prevention has reached thousands of individuals, contributing to healthier outcomes and well-being. Our efforts to improve climate resilience, water access, and sanitation have brought tangible benefits to communities, enhancing their ability to adapt and thrive in the face of environmental challenges. Through these projects and more, we continue to make a meaningful impact across our focus areas.

Our success this year is not only measured by the outcomes of our projects but also by the significant strides we have made in strengthening our internal capacity. Through initiatives such as the Institutional Capacity Optimization Project, we have enhanced our governance structures, operational efficiency, and staff competencies. This foundation of strong organizational capacity ensures we can deliver high-quality programs and services to the communities we serve.

We invite you to read this annual report to learn more about our achievements and the progress we have made throughout the year. By doing so, you will gain insight into our commitment to building stronger communities, fostering positive change, and advancing our mission.

Priorities and Focus Areas:

- ☐ **Community Health:** InPact's flagship programs will focus on community health, aiming to address challenges outlined in the Ministry of Health Strategic Plan.
- ☐ **Environment Conservation/Climate Change:** The organization will invest in environmental conservation and climate change initiatives, aligning with national strategies and the National Climate Change Policy.
- ☐ **Social Enterprise Development:** InPact will establish a hub to support youth and women-led business enterprises, contributing to economic empowerment in target communities.
- ☐ **Strengthen the institutional capacity of InPact:** InPact aims to strengthen its internal capacity through improved human resource management, financial practices, governance, management systems, and monitoring and evaluation systems. These initiatives contribute to operational efficiency, resource diversification, and increased visibility and brand recognition.

ACHIEVEMENTS



Institutional Capacity

With funding and technical support from the USAID/Civil Society Strengthening Activity (CSSA), InPact implemented the Institutional Capacity Optimization Project from April 2023 to March 2024. The project aimed to strengthen InPact's overall institutional capacity, improving efficiency, effectiveness, and sustainability of the organization's work.

This initiative followed a comprehensive Organization Capacity Assessment (OCA) and Advocacy Capacity Assessment (ACA) conducted by USAID/CSSA on InPact, which led to the creation of a Capacity Development Plan (CDP) outlining key actions for InPact at strategic, technical, operational, and advocacy levels. Guided by the CDP, InPact executed a grant-supported project under four principal objectives: enhancing internal technical capacity by leveraging USAID/CSSA's technical assistance; improving staff competencies through training and mentorship in project design, implementation, management, and M&E; strengthening InPact's operational capacity by reviewing and developing internal policies and processes across different departments; and defining the organization's strategic direction by reinforcing governance structures and aligning strategies with InPact's vision, mission, and operational landscape.

By addressing these objectives, InPact increased its capacity to influence and contribute to improved development outcomes in its technical focus areas and the communities it serves.

During the project period, InPact implemented a range of key activities focused on strengthening the overall governance structures in line with corporate governance best practices and statutory obligations, enhancing the operational efficiency through review, updating and developing key management policies and building staff technical capacity in technical areas of advocacy, monitoring and evaluation (M&E), project design, budgeting, and communications. These activities were all aligned with the organization's strategy informed by the strategic plan also developed under this activity.

The development of a new 3-year strategic plan (2023-2026) involved engaging with senior management, various departments, the board, partners, and government representatives to gather inputs. The new strategic plan solidified InPact's roadmap, emphasizing productivity, equity, and responsiveness, positioning the organization to effectively serve communities, build partnerships, and maintain accountability.

InPact also reviewed and updated its governance documents, including its constitution, board charter, and operational policies. This process strengthened internal governance structures, promoting transparency, accountability, and operational effectiveness. Additionally, InPact established a 3-year M&E plan aligned with the new strategic plan. The M&E plan enabled comprehensive tracking of programmatic, operational, and financial performance, with annual work plans derived from the M&E plan for better alignment and tracking.

The organization held regular convening of board committee meetings and board of directors' sessions, leading to the approval of key organizational policies and strategies that improved management efficiency. The development of a new 3-year strategic plan provided a clear roadmap for the organization, and the establishment of a robust M&E system allowed for effective tracking of programmatic and operational performance. Revisions of institutional policies aligned InPact with national legislation and promoted inclusivity.

The project also conducted four trainings, enhancing staff skills in areas such as advocacy, M&E, and project management. These trainings increased staff capacity to support project design, implementation, monitoring, and reporting, while enabling cross-learning and knowledge transfer through CSSA-led technical working groups.

The impact and benefits of the project were substantial. Strengthened governance structures and operational policies improved transparency, accountability, and efficiency. Enhanced staff technical capacity increased the organization's ability to design, implement, and monitor impactful programs. The new strategic plan and M&E system positioned InPact to effectively serve communities, build partnerships, and achieve its mission. Improved technical and operational capacity enabled InPact to better compete for funding opportunities and scale its interventions.

Overall, the project significantly strengthened InPact's institutional capacity across governance, operations, and staff technical capabilities, positioning the organization for sustainable growth and greater development impact.



The Mental Health

In this second year of implementing the Mental Health Support Program, InPact in partnership with StrongMinds Uganda, provided comprehensive mental health services – specifically depression screening and treatment through Group Interpersonal Psychotherapy (IPT-G) directly enrolling 10,680 individuals, 10,653 of whom completed therapy, including 9,310 women and girls and 1,343 men and boys, while indirectly impacting an additional 26,000 people during the period March-December 2023.

In this second year of the program, the reach was expanded to cover marginalized communities, focusing on the Batwa and those with high Gender Based Violence and HIV prevalence. A total of 917 IPTG groups were formed of which 83 were school based, targeting in-school adolescents and delivered by trained teacher facilitators, while 14 groups (11 in community and 3 in school) were formed exclusively for the Batwa communities serving 160 Batwa clients (40 of whom were students). Additionally, as part of HIV and mental health integration, 25 groups were formed to provide therapy to clients enrolled on Anti-retroviral therapy. Therapy was facilitated by 4 trained community champions identified from within the ART clients and trained in IPT-G. As a result, a total of 300 ART clients were identified and treated for depression.

Beyond successfully delivering therapy to over 10,000 clients, the program recorded improved school-based mental health awareness and therapy support which complements the recent Government of Uganda and Ministry of Education and Sports mental health hour guidelines which among other issues requires schools to dedicate at least one hour of basic counseling and psychosocial support each week to boost mental health of learners. Additionally, the program this year also intentionally prioritized communities with a high Gender Based Violence prevalence supporting GBV survivors with therapy, and also intentionally targeting and forming men only groups comprising of GBV perpetrators. This yielded significant outcomes beyond delivering therapy, to empowering women GBV survivors and involving men in these high gender-based violence (GBV) prevalence communities to become champions against GBV.

Overall, the Mental Health Support Programme made substantial progress in expanding access to evidence-based mental health services among marginalized populations, resulting in positive outcomes in client well-being, academic welfare, and community engagement. The program contributed to improved mental health support systems and fostered a more inclusive approach to community health.

Integration:

This year, InPact piloted the integration of mental health screening and treatment into ongoing HIV care, especially at the community level, by implementing the Local Service Delivery Activity and the Mental Health Support Program in Kanungu. This involved screening HIV care and treatment clients and enrolling those with depression into IPT-G. To maintain confidentiality, InPact worked with partner health facilities to form IPT-G groups at these facilities, including clients on ART. A total of 25 ART groups were formed and 4 ART clients trained to as community champions deliver therapy. Key results from assessing the impact of therapy on enrolled clients include:

- ☐ There is a clearly identified link between depression and poor ART adherence.
- ☐ Intersecting social stigmas exacerbate the risk of depression, and this in turn can lead to the double burden of stigma arising from HIV and mental illness.
- ☐ Given the strong link for the contribution of mental health to poor HIV health outcomes, there is need for integrating of mental health screening and treatment into ongoing HIV care.
- ☐ Community level screening and treatment of depression offers a sustainable solution to providing mental health care while easing the workload on health facilities.



HIV & TB

1,171

individuals
reached with HIV
& TB services

InPact's USAID/Local Service Delivery Activity (LSDA) focused on enhancing HIV prevention, care, treatment, and TB treatment in Kanungu and Rukungiri districts. During its second year of implementation, the project expanded its reach from three sub-counties to two districts, supporting 17 health facilities. The project targeted key populations (KPs) and priority populations (PPs) for HIV prevention, providing essential services such as distributing HIV self-test kits, PrEP initiation and refills, and ART for those already on treatment.

Over the course of the year, a total of 1,171 KPs and PPs received HIV prevention messaging, and services. Of these, 689 clients lost to follow-up (these are individuals who were previously on HIV treatment or care but have stopped attending medical appointments) were traced, and 591 were successfully returned to care with 166 of these clients receiving intensive adherence counseling, and 111 paired with community health workers for monitoring and appointment reminders.

The project also emphasized achieving viral load suppression by testing 865 clients in the community and monitoring their treatment progress. In the area of TB treatment, InPact supported health facilities by tracing and initiating new and relapse cases on TB treatment, and a total of 187 clients eligible for TB preventive treatment (TPT) were started on the necessary medication.

The project leveraged strong collaboration and an effective referral system, with InPact coordinating community-level response and working closely with dedicated community volunteers to trace and link clients to partner health facilities for care. InPact's efforts in HIV prevention, treatment, and TB care under this project significantly supported targeted reaching of key populations and delivery of essential services and hence contributing to the overall goal of reducing the spread of HIV and improving health outcomes.





Immunization Advocacy and Financing

The Yerinde project, implemented by InPact with support from PATH, aimed to advocate for increased funding and scale-up of HPV vaccination services, as well as boost HPV vaccination coverage in the Ankole sub-region of Uganda.

At the national level, the project made significant strides in advocacy efforts. InPact held bi-annual engagements with the Uganda Parliamentary Forum on Immunization (UPFI) to present evidence on immunization financing and develop action plans to advocate for increased funding. These engagements led to several achievements, including: i) MPs becoming more aware of HPV vaccination and immunization through shared educational messages; ii) women MPs committing to be advocacy champions for HPV vaccination in Parliament; iii) UPFI developing a work plan to support immunization financing advocacy; and iv) a commitment to a 10% increase in the immunization budget for the next fiscal year.

InPact also conducted two inter-ministerial engagements to improve coordination and leverage cross-sectoral activities to increase HPV uptake. These meetings resulted in proposals for collaboration between the Ministries of Local Government, Education and Sports, and Gender, Labour and Social Development to improve HPV vaccination uptake, which required follow-up at the district level.

Additionally, the project organized four national-level TV talk shows on NBS, NTV, and Spark TV, reaching a wide audience with messages on the national burden of cervical cancer, challenges and opportunities regarding HPV vaccination, immunization financing, and the elimination of vaccine-preventable diseases. These talk shows advocated for increased resource allocation to immunization and raised awareness of cervical cancer and HPV vaccination.

At the sub-national level, the Yerinde project implemented a range of activities to boost access and uptake of HPV

vaccines in the four target districts of Rwampara, Isingiro, Bushenyi, and Sheema. InPact organized district-level entry meetings to introduce the project and stress the importance of multi-sectoral engagement in immunization efforts. This was followed by health sub-district level meetings, where expanded district health management teams developed micro-plans for HPV vaccination in schools, identifying girls who had not completed the vaccination series and those out of school who had not been vaccinated.

To support community mobilization, InPact conducted an orientation for media personnel in the region on immunization, with a focus on cervical cancer and HPV vaccination. This enabled radio and TV presenters to effectively integrate HPV vaccination messaging into their daily programs, using local contexts and language to address myths and misconceptions. As a result, the project facilitated 6 radio and 2 TV talk shows, and 465 presenter mentions were broadcasted through local radio stations in the target districts. These initiatives aimed to raise awareness about HPV vaccination, generate demand in the community, and enhance the coordination of HPV vaccination service delivery.

The impact of the Yerinde project's activities was significant. In the four target districts, HPV vaccination coverage increased by an average of 128% between 2022 and 2023. This was attributed to the strong multi-sectoral collaboration, particularly with the education sector, the empowerment of community influencers and leaders, and the effective media engagement that demystified myths and misconceptions about HPV vaccination. The project's advocacy efforts at the national level also secured increased funding commitments for immunization, laying the groundwork for sustained improvements in HPV vaccination coverage.

Family Planning



In the third year of implementing the USAID/Uganda Family Planning Activity, InPact focused on increasing the uptake of family planning services and promoting healthy timing and spacing of pregnancies (HTSP) in the Kibaale and Kyankwanzi districts. Over the course of the year, the project carried out a range of key activities to create demand for family planning services and strengthen community-facility linkages.

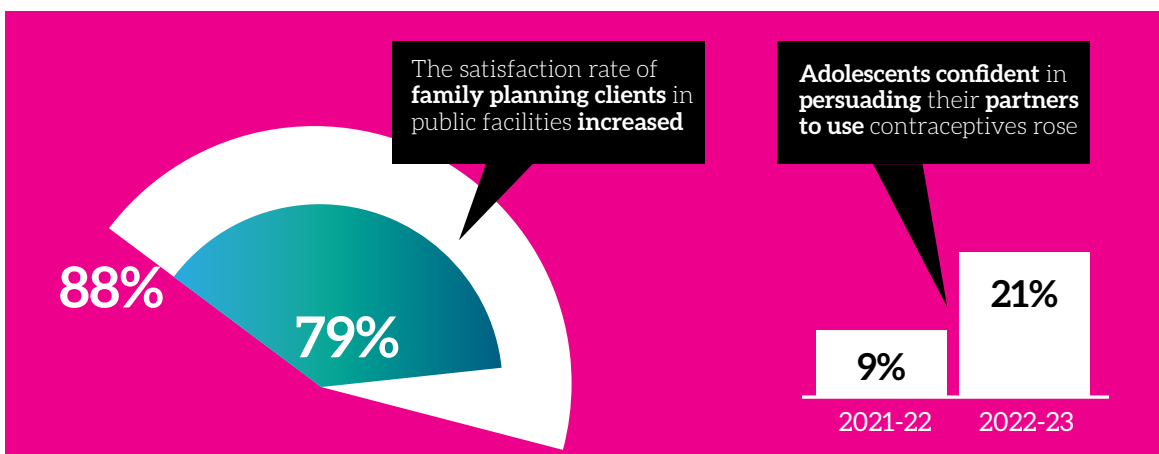
In the area of demand creation and service delivery, InPact conducted 232 community dialogues targeting different population segments, including young people, men, and first-time parents. These dialogues, led by 248 trained facilitators, reached 13,831 individuals with HTSP messaging, despite challenges such as stockouts. Additionally, 5,048 individuals received family planning services such as Sayana Press and Depo-Provera through Village Health Teams (VHTs).

The project strengthened community-facility linkages by holding monthly VHT meetings at supported health facilities to improve referrals. Community health workers conducted home visits and door-to-door approaches, referring 5,376 clients for family planning services and documenting 2,688 completed referrals.

In terms of achievements and impact, the project successfully improved knowledge and shifted social norms around family planning. The percentage of women citing social barriers for non-use of family planning decreased from 5% in 2021-22 to 3% in 2022-23. The satisfaction rate of family planning clients in public facilities increased from 79% to 88%. Moreover, adolescents confident in persuading their partners to use contraceptives rose from 9% to 21%.

The project increased access and uptake of family planning services by reaching 19,176 individuals through community dialogues and home visits. In addition, it provided 4,502 clients with Sayana Press and 546 with Depo-Provera through VHTs, and documented 2,688 completed referrals for family planning and other health services.

Overall, the project's efforts in community engagement and strengthening community-facility linkages significantly improved the uptake of family planning services and contributed to healthier timing and spacing of pregnancies in Kibaale and Kyankwanzi districts.



PROJECT INCREASED ACCESS & UPTAKE OF FP	4,502	clients with Sayana Press
	546	clients with Depo-Provera through VHTs
Reached 19,176 individuals through community dialogues and home visits	Documented 2,688	completed referrals for family planning and other health services.



Climate change mitigation and environment conservation.

This year, InPact secured its first funding from the Confluence Institute and the Foundation for Community Development and Empowerment to implement the EcoSmart Project. The project aimed to enhance climate resilience and livelihoods in water-stressed communities in Kibaale District. The main goals were to improve access to safe water, hygiene, and sanitation services while promoting conservation and restoration of ecosystems to address climate change impacts, as well as equipping women and youth with nature-friendly income-generating skills to improve resilience and livelihoods.

The project made significant strides in improving climate resilience and livelihoods. InPact reached 3,580 individuals, including 2,434 females and 1,146 males, with improved access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene services by installing 41 rainwater harvesting tanks for 31 households, five schools, and five health facilities. Additionally, the project conducted 88 community, school, and health facility-based education sessions on improved sanitation and hygiene practices, reaching 2,163 people. These efforts led to 95% of target households achieving clean pit latrines, handwashing facilities, and organic waste disposal pits.

Improvements in water access resulted in some gains including increases in school attendance by up to 25%, and decrease in water-borne related infections by up to 30%. Moreover, InPact planted and monitored 5,000 tree seedlings with an 89% survival rate, surpassing the district average of 75%.

In terms of livelihoods, InPact trained and skilled 228 youth (73 males, 155 females) in nature-friendly income-generating activities such as beekeeping, permaculture, tree nurseries, rabbit keeping, poultry, mushroom growing, and crafts. Of the trained youth, 176 (77.2%) started their own income-generating ventures, achieving an average 35% increase in individual incomes over eight months.

The project also supported institutional capacity strengthening activities a series of initiatives that improved governance and compliance, financial management, strategic planning, and human resource management. These efforts collectively enhanced InPact's ability to support the communities it serves and advance environment conservation, climate resilience and livelihoods.

InPact reached
3,580
individuals

2,434 Females

1,146 Males

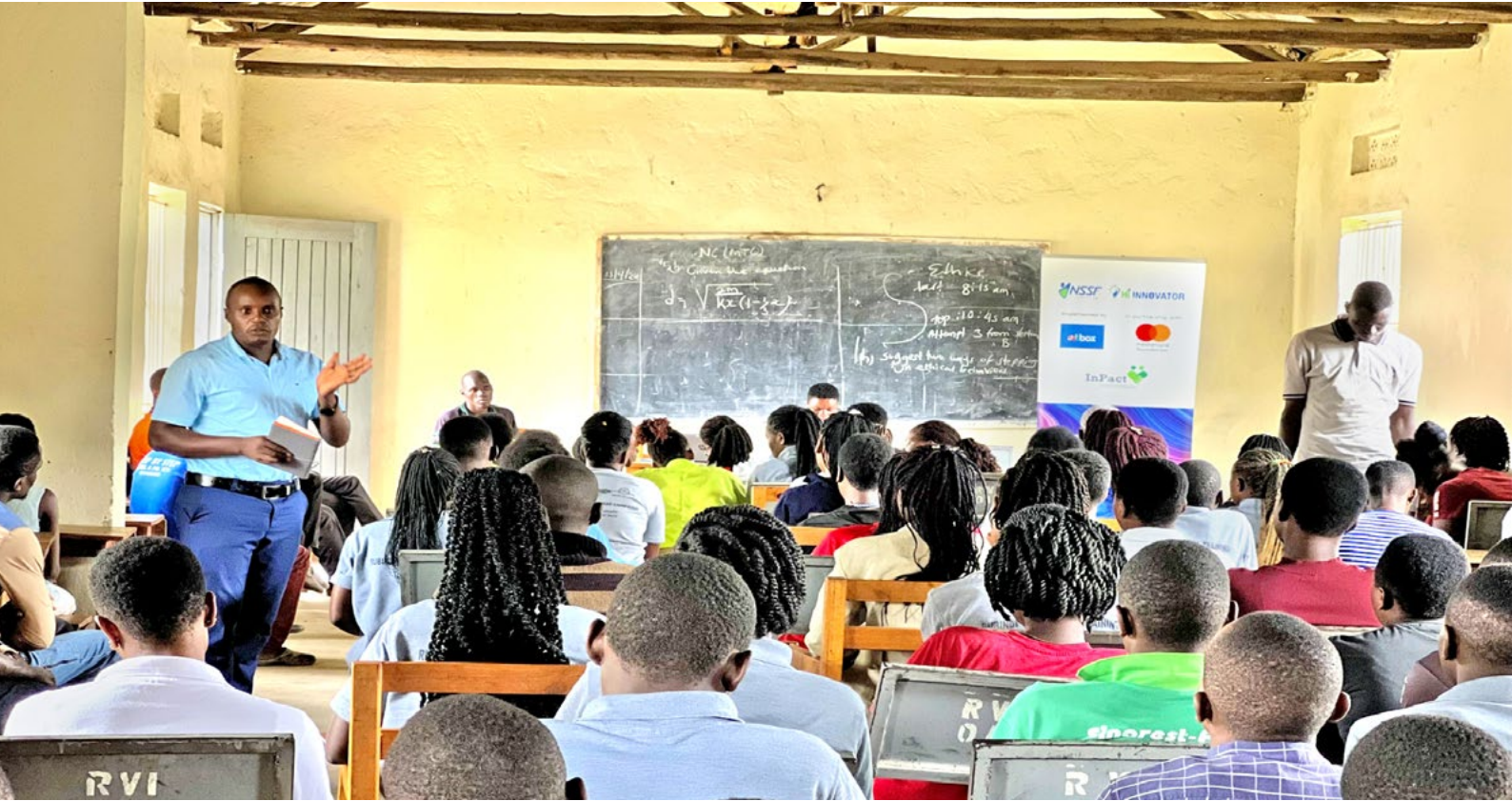
*With improved access
to safe water, sanitation,
and hygiene services*

5000

*Tree seedlings
with an 89%
survival rate*



Entrepreneurship and business development



In 2023, InPact made significant strides under the Hi-Innovator program by supporting job creation and enhancing access to resources for entrepreneurs, with a particular focus on supporting women-led businesses. The Hi-Innovator program is a collaborative initiative between the National Social Security Fund (NSSF), the Mastercard Foundation, and Outbox Uganda, with InPact serving as a technical partner hub. Under the program, InPact works with small and growing businesses by offering catalytic seed funding, enhancing the capacity of entrepreneurship support organizations, and collaborating with financing institutions to facilitate access to affordable patient capital.

This year, InPact enrolled 647 entrepreneurs from across the country into the program, with 106 successfully completing the business foundational course, which builds the capacity of entrepreneurs and positions them to access funding and investment opportunities. Out of these participants, 36 entrepreneurs competed for and secured \$20,000 in seed funding from the program.

Special consideration was given to women entrepreneurs through the women accelerator window, which aimed to improve competitiveness and empower women entrepreneurs. As a result, 29 women-led businesses successfully completed the academy course and secured funding accounting for 80% of the total seed funding awarded. The project also continued to support alumni SGBs with incubation support, knowledge sessions, and technical assistance to ensure business growth and job creation.

Overall, the project made steady progress in 2023, successfully funding and onboarding new cohorts of entrepreneurs from diverse demographics, spanning different genders, geographical locations, and sectors. This approach demonstrates a commitment to inclusive and sustainable economic growth through entrepreneurial development.

647

entrepreneurs from across the country supported.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

In 2023, InPact continued its partnership with the Global Development Group to enhance access to safe water in water-stressed sub-counties of Kanungu and Rukungiri districts. Through the installation of rainwater harvesting tanks in households and schools, the project improved water accessibility, sanitation facilities, and hygiene practices in two communities, supporting ten households and two schools. Emphasizing environmental considerations, such as mitigating climate change impacts on water sources, and promoting inclusive practices to empower vulnerable groups like women, children, and those with disabilities, the project aimed to improve health and socio-economic welfare while fostering community engagement.

We enhanced our partnership with The Washing Machine Project to ease the burden of handwashing clothes. This year, we donated 10 Divya model manual, off-the-grid washing machines to households led by women and families with special needs children in rural and peri-urban communities.



Impact Stories

Empowering Transformation: InPact's Journey of Growth with USAID/CSSA Support.

The USAID/Civil Society Strengthening Activity (CSSA) has been instrumental in bolstering InPact's governance, institutional, and technical capacities, driving substantial organizational growth and efficiency. At governance level, InPact's governance capacity has experienced significant enhancement following comprehensive review and finalization of InPact's constitution and Board Charter. This along with the regular convening of scheduled Board committee meetings and Board of Directors' meetings, has ensured robust policy review, compliance assessment, and strategic decision-making processes, leading to the approval of key organizational policies and strategies hence improving management efficiency. These initiatives have not only strengthened InPact's internal governance structures but have also reinforced a culture of transparency, accountability, and operational effectiveness within the organization.

In tandem with governance improvements, CSSA's support has enabled InPact to revise and streamline its institutional policies, including Finance, Human Resource, Procurement, and Travel Policies. These revisions, informed by CSSA's expertise and industry best practices, have optimized internal processes, ensuring compliance with legal requirements and enhancing operational efficiency. CSSA's capacity support has also extended to InPact developing key policies and strategies such as the resource mobilization, communications and advocacy strategies, an M&E Plan aligned to the strategic plan, and supported staff technical capacity development in implementing and tracking these policies for organizational and programmatic effectiveness.

Furthermore, CSSA's tailored capacity-building initiatives and technical support have empowered InPact's staff, enhancing their technical expertise and operational effectiveness. Through participation in CSSA-led training sessions, technical working groups, and peer learning platforms, InPact's team members have gained valuable skills and knowledge in areas such as program management, finance, advocacy, and resource mobilization. This enhanced staff capacity not only ensures the successful implementation of programs but also positions InPact to adapt to evolving challenges and seize emerging opportunities, fostering organizational growth and resilience.

Collectively, the strengthened governance structures, revised institutional policies, and enhanced staff capacity, facilitated by CSSA, have positioned InPact for sustainable scaling of its interventions.

By fortifying these core areas, InPact is better equipped to deliver impactful programs, engage with stakeholders effectively, and achieve its mission of transforming communities.

Breaking the Silence: InPact's Mental Health Initiative Empowers GBV Survivors

“In a month, I would sleep in my house for a combined total of 3-4 nights.”

This is the sad reality of so many women in Kanungu district with Kentaro* being just one of many that unfortunately have been relegated to a GBV statistic and footnote.



InPact's mental health initiative supports GBV survivors, fostering resilience and empowerment in rural communities as narrated in the following story of a brave GBV survivor:

Kentaro is a member of Bakyara Barungi (Beautiful Ladies) group in Rutooma Village, Kanungu district. Her life for the longest time was upended by the actions of her alcoholic and abusive husband. In what became unpredictable and yet frequent fits of rage, her husband would physically assault her, and lock her out of her own matrimonial home. She would be forced to spend the night out in the cold, on the hard floor, sleeping on the verandah, and bitten endlessly by malaria spreading mosquitos. Embarrassed by her ordeal, she feared to seek refuge from her neighbors and relatives, and had to tolerate all this abuse which sometimes also didn't spare her children.

This undoubtedly took a toll on Kentaro and led her down a path to depression.

“I could barely eat any food, or even plan for my family and my future. I was in constant fear of my husband and what he would do to me at any moment”.

The fear of being a 'public shame' and having a failed marriage also didn't help because it forced Kentaro to keep all these pressures and stress to herself, and further trapped her in this destructive cyclic situation.

As Kentaro continues to narrate her story, one group member interjects with what begins as soft rhythmic tapping of her seat, which draws the attention of other group members and they quickly erupt into a song and ekitaguriro dance – an energetic and celebratory dance unique to the Bakiga community in southwestern Uganda where we are. This breaking into an abrupt celebratory dance the members later explain is because Kentaro is speaking in the past tense meaning that she has since overcome her cyclic life of abuse and depression.

This is indeed the case as Kentaro continues to narrate that ever since she joined the Bakyara Barungi group on recommendation of one of her friends who is also a member, she has seen a significant turn of events in her life. She attributes this to the talk therapy through the group sessions where for the first time she has had the courage and been given the platform to share her experience. For her, being able to share her situation in confidence and in a safe space has contributed significantly towards her transformation. The rest she attributes to the advice and lived experiences shared by other group members from which she has drawn some lessons that she is now applying in her own situation.

“For the last 3 weeks since I joined the group, I have not spent a single night outside”

– Kentaro testifies, and immediately there is another eruption of an impromptu ekitaguriro dance. It is indeed a celebration.

Kentaro attributes this change in fortune to the wise counsel from her peers.

“I have learnt how to focus on the things that make me happy, things I can control, and to also pre-empt some of the triggers that force my husband to act in a certain way, and minimize them”. She adds;

“I also think that my positive demeanor now has disarmed my husband. He now realizes that the fear is not controlling me, and that I have chosen love and happiness”.

Kentaro, however, is not naïve to think this is a complete turnaround of her fortunes and urges her members to keep the group active even beyond the group cycle so that she and her fellow members can continue to meet and support each other.

***Kentaro's name has been changed to protect her privacy and ensure confidentiality in sharing her story.**

InPact's Health Advocacy Contribution: Advancing Immunization Financing and Vaccination Coverage:

This year, InPact took significant strides in health advocacy by leading efforts to advocate for enhanced immunization financing and vaccination coverage for the Human Papilloma Vaccine (HPV) at both national and subnational levels. Under the PATH-funded Yerinde Project, InPact engaged in strategic dialogues with key stakeholders, including Parliamentarians, to present evidence on immunization financing and develop action plans for increased funding. These sessions not only shed light on challenges in resource forecasting and optimization but also identified opportunities to improve vaccination access and uptake. Additionally, InPact delved into the national budgeting cycle to address immunization financing trends and advocate for appropriate budget allocation, sustaining efforts to secure adequate resources for immunization programs.

Furthermore, InPact's advocacy initiatives extended to facilitating inter-ministerial engagements to enhance coordination and leverage activities for increased HPV uptake. Collaborating with Ministries of Local Government, Finance, Education, Sports, Gender, Labor, and Social Development, along with supported local governments, InPact harmonized innovative strategies to boost HPV vaccination rates.

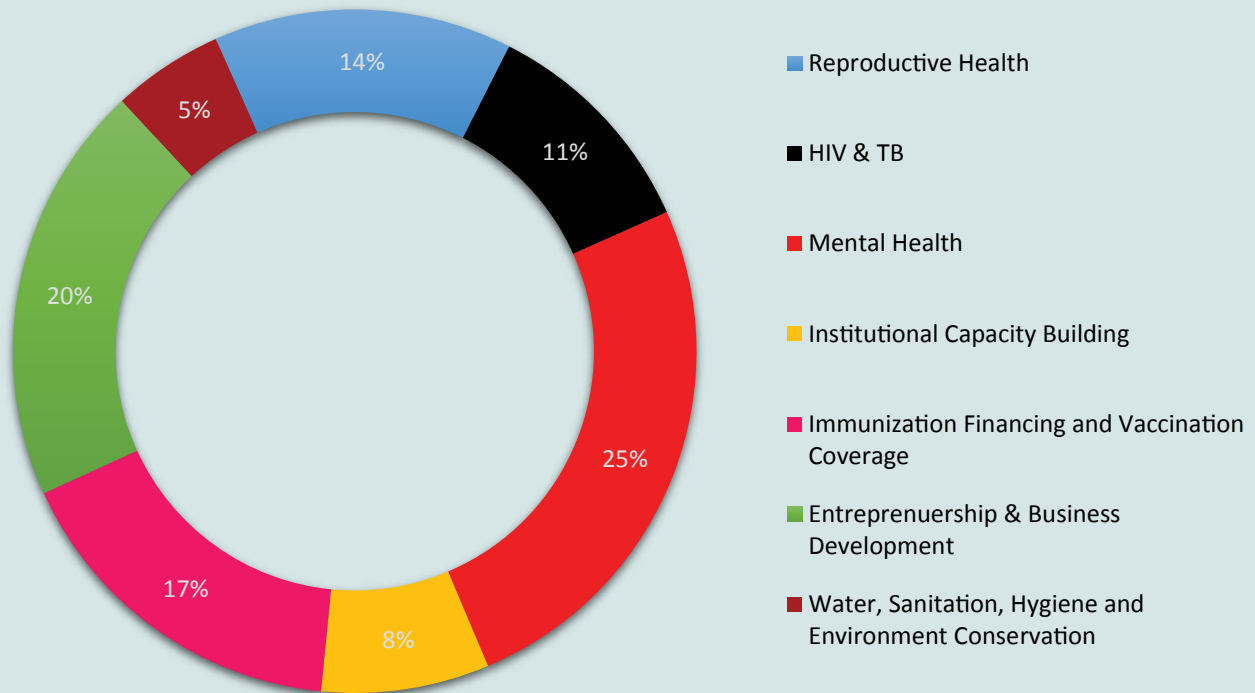
InPact's advocacy efforts transcended in-person sessions to reach national media platforms and social media channels. Organizing talk shows on prominent TV and radio channels and disseminating advocacy messages on various social media platforms, InPact effectively raised awareness about cervical cancer and HPV vaccination, garnering public support for increased financing towards immunization. This multi-faceted approach engaged policymakers, healthcare professionals, and the general public, empowering them to play an active role in promoting immunization services.

Moreover, InPact actively participated in advocacy capacity-building sessions facilitated by PATH, enhancing its staff's ability to conduct strategic advocacy campaigns aimed at achieving policy goals. Practical strategies learned during these sessions, such as identifying advocacy goals, leveraging decision-makers, and overcoming obstacles, proved instrumental in guiding InPact's advocacy activities at both national and subnational levels.

Ultimately, InPact's efforts this year in advocating for increased immunization financing and vaccination coverage have laid a solid foundation for future endeavors. By engaging diverse stakeholders, leveraging media platforms, and investing in capacity building, InPact has demonstrated its commitment to navigating the intricacies of policy advocacy. These efforts are vital for presenting compelling evidence to policymakers and fostering multi-sectoral collaborations, ensuring a sustainable health advocacy agenda for the future.



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Our Partners



Photos

Cover Image	InPact staff conducting community sensitization outreach
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Page 11	L-R: InPact’s COO, the Washing Machine Project Founder and R&D team lead with one of the Divya machine recipients, – Kampala, Uganda
Page 14	L-R: InPact’s Executive Director and COO engaging with the Chairman of the Health Committee, Parliament of Uganda, Dr. Charles Ayume - Kampala, Uganda

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Transformation (InPact)**

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