



## PRESS RELEASE

### Launch of Education Plus Initiative in Uganda.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2022, Government of Uganda in partnership with the United Nations in Uganda will launch the **Education Plus Initiative**. The launch will be presided over by the First Lady and Minister of Education and Sports Hon Janet K. Museveni at Mengo Senior School.

Convened by five UN agencies namely, UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNWOMEN, UNICEF and UNESCO, the Education Plus Initiative is a five-year (2021-2025) high-profile, high-level political advocacy drive to accelerate actions and investments among adolescent girls, young women and boys as agents of change to prevent HIV, reduce teenage pregnancy, early marriages, gender-based violence with access to and completion of secondary school education as an entry point. This campaign complements the ongoing high level campaign on teenage pregnancy launched by the First Lady in 2021.

The high risk of acquiring HIV is just one of the many threats adolescent girls and young women face to their health, safety, dignity, and life aspirations. While women and girls are biologically more susceptible to HIV than men and boys, unequal gender power dynamics and harmful gender norms are the root cause, compounded by intersecting forms of discrimination.

Keeping girls in secondary school is crucial – a right in and of itself, and a means to protect girls against HIV infection. Greater gains have been made in reducing new HIV infections among adolescent girls and young women in countries that have higher completion rates for lower secondary school (>50%).

The Education 'Plus' Initiative therefore is a Multi- Sectoral initiative that brings together Ministries of Education and Sports, Health, Gender, Labour and Social Development, Local Government and other MDAs to focus on essential elements of what every adolescent girl and young woman is entitled to for effective transitioning to adulthood. These include enrollment and completion of quality



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secondary education, universal access to sexuality education, fulfillment of sexual and reproductive health and rights, freedom from gender-based and sexual violence, school-to-work transitions and economic security and empowerment.

The Initiative will in the first five years target adolescent girls and young women in regions and districts that registered the highest number of teenage pregnancies in 2021. These include North Central, Busoga, Bunyoro, Lango, Tooro and West Nile.

The Education Plus Initiative will be launched on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022 by the First Lady and Minister of Education and Sports at Mengo Senior School Kampala from 2:00pm and will be attended by senior government officials, development partners, the UN, Religious leaders, Private sector, civil society Organizations, Students, Teachers and Parents.

For more information, contact the undersigned.

Thank you,

*Jr* Ketty Lamaro  
**Permanent Secretary**  
**Ministry of Education and Sports**