

## *Our Star of the Quarter*

Probably, you may have heard her name or perhaps crossed paths with her in corridors of influence. She is a sexual reproductive health and rights (SRHR) advocate, a feminist champion and a creative gender transformer.

Olgah Daphynne Namukuza aka Auntie Olzz: at 29, she has received local and international accolades in recognition of her invaluable contribution in championing SRHR of adolescents and young people.

Olgah, the current Country Director of the SRHR Alliance in Uganda, a position she assumed in September, is our star advocate of the quarter.

The remarkable journey that has led to this esteemed position has been nothing short of awe-inspiring, and her unwavering dedication has shone through every single step along the way.

Until September, Olgah served as the programmes manager for a €500,000 COVID-19 response programme with the Aga Khan Foundation Uganda.

She provided leadership over the two-year programme that was sub-granting funds to more than 20 CSOs and learning organisations to implement community-based programmes.

The programme she led impacted over 540,000 vulnerable people including autistic children, people living with HIV/AIDS, teenage mothers and fathers, victims and survivors of gender-based violence, refugees, people with disabilities, people with mental health challenges in the central and West Nile region of Uganda.

Our star advocate of the quarter has previously held a number of positions in various organisations: programmes manager at the Uganda Network of Young People Living with HIV/AIDS (UNYPA) where she provided strategic leadership and management, annually managing a budget of more than \$200,000.

Before then, she held the position of the Youth Coordinator of the SRHR Alliance in Uganda empowering young people with special focus girls, the marginalised, persons with disabilities and People living with HIV/AIDS to seek reproductive health services and make informed decisions about their sexuality.

The cornerstone of her remarkable journey can be traced back when she made the decision to join Youth Action Movement (YAM) where she crowned it up as YAM Africa Regional President.

Her YAM presidency served as a catalyst for her as she fearlessly led the youth arm of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) representing the voices of young people at the IPPF – Africa Regional Council in Nairobi and later the body's global Governing Council in London.

In her current position, Olgah vows to use her influence to continue “strengthening and maximising the impact of the young people’s efforts to address SRHR challenges in Uganda by ensuring adoption of sustained mechanisms of meaningful youth participation and gender transformative approaches in all the programmes and activities implemented by our partners; this shall guarantee sustainable youth empowerment”

The new SRHR Alliance Uganda Country Director believes her role presents her the “opportunity to become a true epitome of meaningful youth participation embracing youth strengths for the benefit of the SRHR landscape in Uganda, I am happy to be a living symbol on the benefits reaped when young people are empowered and supported to utilize their skills and expertise.”

Madam Country Director, our *Star of the Quarter*, the SRHR Spotlight congratulates and wishes you the best in your new role.