



Concept Note -Side Event

11th African Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD)

Venue and Date: Kampala, Uganda at the Speke Resort Convention Centre, Munyonyo, from 7th to 9 April 2025.

Proposed Side Event Title: Navigating the impact of climate change on SRHR and GBV: Building resilience for adolescents and young people in Africa.

1. **Introduction:** Paradigm for Social Justice and Development (PSD) is a women's rights organization that advocates for the rights of girls and women in Uganda . The organization is committed towards advancing social justice and development of the youth and women to be able to shape their destiny. PSD envisions a society free from poverty, injustice and violence. The mission is to work with vulnerable communities to address social injustices, alleviate poverty and violence.

2. **Contribution to ARFSD theme**

The side event will highlight issues, challenges, lessons learnt and progress made under SDG 5 on gender equality and SDG 3-on health and wellbeing. The session will contribute to the theme “ driving job creation and economic growth for young women and survivors of Gender based violence through an inclusive approach that also promotes access to justice, SRHR, and economic empowerment. By sharing examples of lived experiences of adolescent girls and young women, this session will provide case studies and evidence based recommendations and solutions to accelerate achievement of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

Objectives of the event: The session will review progress, challenges and opportunities in the implementation of SDG 3, SDG 5 and the linkages to SDG 13. To promote peer to peer learning, best practices, challenges and recommendations on how Enabling Meaningful Participation and Collective Action of Teenage Girls and Young Women in SRHR Decision-Making Processes is an imperative for achievement of sustainable development goals (SDG 3, SDG 5 and impacts of SDG13).

3. **Topics to be covered during the session**

The session topic will focus on: discussing why it is important to strengthen the capacity and movement building for Girls and Young Women (GYW) on SRH rights. What mechanisms are in place to improve coordination, collaboration, linking and networking at local, national and regional levels. How can we increase GYW's participation in climate change adaptation actions and decision-making processes at local and national levels.

- **Climate Change as a Catalyst for Gender-Based Violence:** Analyzing how climate change-induced events, such as displacement, migration, and resource scarcity, increase the risk of gender-based violence, particularly for young women and girls in vulnerable communities.
- **Disruption of SRHR Services in Climate-Affected Regions:** Examining the ways in which climate-related disasters or environmental changes disrupt access to essential SRHR services, particularly for adolescents and young people, and proposing adaptive solutions to ensure continuity of care.
- **Youth-Led Advocacy for SRHR, GBV, and Climate Change:** Focusing on how young people are at the forefront of addressing the intersection of SRHR, GBV, and climate change through grassroots activism, advocacy, and innovative solutions that empower peers and communities.
- **Building Climate Resilient SRHR Systems:** Discussing how health systems can be strengthened to withstand the challenges posed by climate change, ensuring that SRHR services are accessible, particularly in disaster-prone and conflict-affected areas.



- **Leveraging Technology to Combat GBV and Support SRHR:** Exploring the role of digital platforms and mobile technologies in providing information, support, and services related to SRHR and GBV prevention in climate-impacted regions.

4. **List of speakers/Panelist and Moderator**

The session Moderator is: Hellen Malinga Apila

5. **The Speakers/Panelists**

- **Hivos:** Mr. Kelvin kaputula, program manager
- **PSD:** Zurah Asanda, Program manager
- **VDA-DI:** MS Joy Katusabe Mwangi, Executive Director
- **SGF:** Dr, Apio Alice, Medical Practitioner

6. **Target Audience**

Government officials, Civil Society organizations, Academia, Young people, Media, Development partners

7. **Expected Outcomes**

This will facilitate cross country peer to peer learning among Civil Society organizations and the development partners. A report of the session will capture the key messages, best practices, challenges, and recommendations to provide input into the political declaration