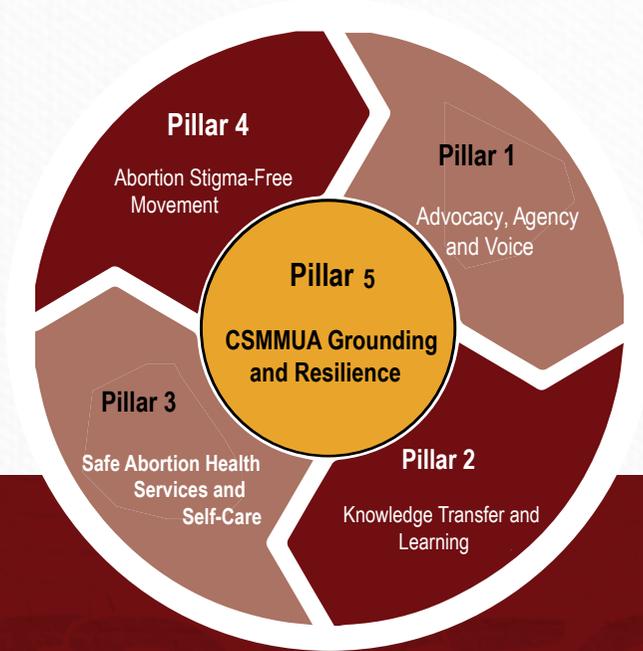


# CSMMUA

COALITION TO STOP MATERNAL MORTALITY DUE TO UNSAFE ABORTION

## STRATEGIC PLAN

COMPASS (2024 - 2028)



*“A Uganda where no woman suffers or dies due to unsafe abortion”*

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Founded in March 2012, The Coalition to Stop Maternal Mortality Due to Unsafe Abortion (CSMMUA) is a multidisciplinary Ugandan civil society coalition that brings together civil society advocacy organizations, sexual and reproductive health service providers, legal practitioners, policy makers, academia, researchers, professional associations and individual human rights activists with the goal of reducing maternal morbidity and mortality due to unsafe abortion and sensitizing the public and policy makers about safe, legal abortion.

CSMMUA aims to reduce unsafe abortion in Uganda by advocating for improvement in laws and policies, access to quality and comprehensive services for the prevention and management of unwanted or unplanned pregnancies, and reduction in unsafe abortion stigma and discrimination. The membership consists of organizations and individuals. The current membership of CSMMUA stands seventy (70) Institutional and Individual Members.

CSMMUA's Secretariat is hosted by Center for Health, Human Rights and Development (CEHURD), which provides leadership and coordinates the Coalition's work.

**Vision**

CSMMUA Envisions  
“A Uganda where  
no woman suffers or  
dies due to unsafe  
abortion.”

**Mission**

The Coalition’s mission is: “A responsive and well-resourced coalition committed to the reduction of morbidity and mortality due to unsafe abortion through evidence generation, advocacy, community engagement, progressive social movement building and capacity enhancement”.

**3.0 WHAT CSMMUA BELIEVES: OUR PRINCIPLES AND VALUES****CSMMUA prides in;**

- 1. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion;** We believe that all people in all their diversity are equal in rights and that interventions to be impactful and sustainable, they must be inclusive. We embrace all people irrespective of their social, economic, political status, race, gender, age, ethnicity, locality, choice of work, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression. We strongly believe that no person or community should be discriminated against in the provision and access to sexual and reproductive health and other social services.
- 2. One-ness;** the Coalition is greater than each one of its individual

members. We therefore strongly believe in collective action and voicing. We are held together with a strong bond of solidarity and sustain our commitment towards building a stronger and resilient SRHR ecosystem.

3. **Mutual respect;** we respect the dignity of everyone and value each other for our unique contributions to the Coalition.
4. **Accountability;** We are accountable to ourselves as coalition members, partners, stakeholders and our target communities on whose pain and shoulders we stand tall. We are transparent, reliable, responsible, and committed to our cause.
5. **Gender Equality and the Respect for Women's Rights and Choices;** We uphold gender equality in all we do because; we believe that all people in all their diversity are equal in rights and that CSMMUA shall adopt mechanisms and processes, which give voice to women and girls. As CSMMUA we promote and defend the sexual and reproductive health and rights of all women/people. We further aim to achieve a world where every woman, girl and others have a right to make decisions about their sexual and reproductive health and life and where they have equitable access to the full range of SRHR information and services. We therefore honour the agency and personhood of women and girls as a foundation towards their total liberation.
6. **Safety, Security and Wellness;** We are cognizant of the fact that the work we do as a Coalition opens us up to personal, institutional, and collective risks and as such, we value personal, organizational and collective safety, security and wellness.
7. **Confidentiality and trust;** We set out to respect confidentiality and data protection for our members and collaborators. We also strongly believe in trust-based relationships.

We are cognisant of the fact that one of our key strengths as a Coalition is our collective power; therefore, building collective power amongst Coalition Members is at the core of CSMMUA. The Coalition is also cognisant of the fact that while it has a relatively large membership across the country, giving it presence in a wide geographical coverage it seeks to serve; the expanded nature does not translate into corresponding action and sustained interventions due to capacity gaps, lack of value alignment, lack of resources to undertake safe abortion work, fear of the impact of punitive laws and capacity gaps at the Coordinating Secretariate.

This Strategic Plan will invest in reinforcing and strategically strengthen the Coalition in the existing geographical areas such that the membership can deepen their community work, social mobilisation, and advocacy. The Coalition will also ensure that strategic alliances are forged and sustained within and amongst its members (to ensure cross-learning) as well as undertaking periodic mapping and scouting out for potential new members and allies with the view of continuous strengthening, replenishing ranks and sustaining the Coalition. Externally, CSMMUA will prioritize multi-stakeholder partnerships and innovative collaborations to achieve impact and scale up of its work. This will include expanding collaborations with traditional and non-traditional partners.

## 5.0 CSMMUA STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES ((2024-2029)

### **The Coalition's Objectives are;**

1. To advocate for a progressive legal and policy environment for safe abortion healthcare services in Uganda.
2. To improve knowledge generation, management and utilisation on abortion healthcare in Uganda.
3. To advocate for improved access to quality sexual reproductive health (SRH) information and services.
4. To promote change in attitudes, behaviour, harmful norms and beliefs among key stakeholders towards abortion healthcare in Uganda.
5. To strengthen the institutional capacity of CSMMUA to efficiently deliver on its mandate.

## 6.0 OUR PILLARS (2024-2028)

**The strategic objectives above are supported by the following pillars;**

### **Pillar 1 Advocacy, Agency and Voice**

**This Pillar is aligned to strategic objective 1**

Under this pillar, the coalition will work towards an enabling legal and safe policy environment for safe abortion in Uganda. Uganda still grapples with retrogressive and archaic legislations like the Penal Code Act (PCA), ushered in by the colonial masters that have since advanced public health discussions/agreements to develop progressive legislation on key SRHR issues like unsafe abortion, contraception, and sex work. The current legal framework is hostile to the provision of health care services that are deemed “contentious issues. The coalition will invest in working towards a progressive legal and policy environment that promotes access to SRHR for target communities in their diversities.

## **Pillar 2: Knowledge Transfer and Learning**

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### **This Pillar is aligned to strategic objective 2**

Under this Pillar, CSMMUA will work towards a resource base that is nationally, regionally and globally recognized to inform legal reform and programming on safe and legal abortion health care services and advocacy. CSMMUA believes in the power of evidence-based advocacy and enforcing accountability. Research and documentation have a specific purpose of influence the formal and informal policies, shifting narratives, programming, movement building and resourcing on abortion

## **Pillar 3: Safe abortion health care services and self-care**

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### **This Pillar is aligned to strategic objective 3**

The strategic goal for this Pillar is access to affordable, high quality and accountable healthcare system that provides comprehensive

abortion care services for women and girls and protects the rights of health service providers. We are cognizant of the fact that building the capacity of health workers (pre-service and in-service) to provide post-abortion care and safe-abortion care is critical in ensuring that safe abortion health services are provided and accessed. CSMMUA will also undertake refresher courses for in-service and undertake regular trainings for community health support structures to ensure access to services for all.

#### **Pillar 4: Stigma free- movement building**

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**This Pillar is aligned to strategic objective 4**

CSMMUA will work towards an abortion stigma free environment. We recognize that abortion-related stigma is manifested in various ways and affects activists, Organisations, service users, service providers and the population in general. As such, CSMMUA is committing to providing public information and building a critical mass of citizens for greater appreciation, dialogue, and advocacy for an abortion - stigma free Uganda.

#### **Pillar 5: CSMMUA Grounding and Resilience**

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**This Pillar is aligned to strategic objective 5**

Under this Pillar, CSMMUA aims at having a coordinated, efficient, resilient and sustainable Coalition championing safe abortion programming, resourcing, movement building, service delivery, evidence generation and advocacy. We are cognizant of the fact that one of our key strengths as a Coalition is our collective power; therefore, building collective power amongst Coalition Members is at the core of CSMMUA.

- i. Policy and legal advocacy
- ii. Technical and institutional capacity development of members
- iii. Evidence generation through research and knowledge management
- iv. Movement building
- v. Collective voicing
- vi. Public interest litigation
- vii. Legal support services
- viii. Commemoration of SRHR international days
- ix. Innovative approaches and models.
- x. Community mobilization and empowerment
- xi. Media engagements
- xii. Strategic communications
- xiii. Strategic partnerships, collaborations and networks
- xiv. Exchange Learning
- xv. Monitoring, evaluation and learning

This is a collective strategy for members of CSMMUA who will all contribute towards its implementation and the measurement of results. Members are encouraged to integrate components of the Strategic plan into their programming and resource mobilization initiatives. The Strategic plan will be tracked and documented through CSMMUA newsletters and annual reports.

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 [www.csmmua.org](http://www.csmmua.org)