I VOTE I PARTICIPATE PROJECT

Project Duration: January – November 2018

Project Location: Mombasa County

Project Target: Youth Led Organizations

Project Donor: LSU

Project Lead Coordinator (Kenya): Youth Alive! Kenya
**About Us**

Stretchers Youth Organization is a membership, Youth led community based organization that was founded in 2011 with the aim of raising dialogue through advocacy, community mobilization, capacity building, artistic expression and service linkage on reproductive health, human rights, good governance and skills development among women and young people at the coastal counties of Kenya to address societal issues ranging from teenage pregnancies, high rate of HIV/AIDS among adolescents and young people, high rate of unemployment, human rights violation and bad/poor governance.

**Vision**

A Health society where every voice counts

**Mission**

To promote health rights and good governance among youth and women by integrating capacity building, advocacy and information sharing through linkage to services for sustainable society.

**Motto**

Building youths and women capacities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Our Core Programme Areas</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• HIV prevention- To contribute towards preventing new HIV infections and ending AIDS in Kenya</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Sexual and Reproductive Health&amp; Rights- To contribute to universal access to comprehensive, responsive and high quality services for all adolescents and young people</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Comprehensive Sexuality Education- To contribute towards quality and comprehensive age appropriate sexuality education among adolescents and young people.</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Our Key Strategies</strong></th>
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<td>• Policy advocacy and working with partners, the Kenya national and county governments</td>
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<td>• Delivery of innovative programmes to increase access to the most vulnerable and marginalized communities</td>
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<td>• Strengthening, building and establishments of adolescents and young peoples’ network to champion for their issues</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Our Priority Populations</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>• Adolescents aged 10-18 years</td>
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<td>• Young people 10-24 years</td>
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**About LSU**

LSU - Sweden's youth organizations are an interest and cooperation organization that today collects 83 national youth organizations. This is an idea-based, party-political and religiously unified organization whose task is to strengthen youth's democratic organization with diversity and human rights as a starting point.

A youth organization is a place where young people meet, change and improve their own everyday lives. The youth movement is wide and brings together organizations that focus on things like interests, religion, ethnicity, functionality and politics. What unites them is that both the leaders and the members are young.

LSU is a meeting place focused on leadership, organizational development, impact work and youth policy. Many challenges encountered by youth organizations require cooperation and understanding of national and cultural boundaries. Therefore, exchanges of experience and cooperation with youth organizations in the world are an important part of our mission.

LSU is governed democratically by our member organizations and a board elected every two years. The work at LSU is organized in the areas of Politics and Impact, as well as Collaboration Organization and Leadership. You will find more about us on the board and at the chancellor of the links here.

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**About I-VIP Project**

Everywhere around the world, young people desire more access not just to job opportunities, but to a better quality of life. They resent being marginalized in government development process and are eager to have greater control over their lives. Youths participating in development plans have been left un-addressed; hence conflict, violence and a missed generation for global development are the costs of neglect that the society is paying one way or another. Oftentimes, problems facing the youth in Kenya and Zimbabwe have characteristically been narrowed down to a mere rhetoric of unemployment. How about the drugs menace? Non-inclusion by various stakeholders? Poor governance? Unemployment is a simplistic way of looking at challenges facing the youth. Aren’t there employed youths who are still disillusioned about the state of affairs in the country?

Youths in Kenya-Mombasa County are marginalized and not involved in development plans by the county government while in Zimbabwe youths are only used to create violence hence not exercising their democratic rights through voting. It is through this project I Vote I Participate (I-VIP) that will seek to empower youth organizations to participate in government development planning process and in civic education to actively participate in electoral process.
**I Vote I Participate Goal**

Empowered 12 youth organizations actively participating in Mombasa county-Kenya development planning processes and 2% of the entire Hatcliffe extension-Zimbabwe population reached with civic education information towards the forthcoming general elections by end of November 2018 of project’s implementation.

**I Vote I Participate Objectives**

i. Increasing the capacity of 12 youth organizations in Kenya to meaningfully participate in government development planning processes by end of projects’ implementation

ii. Increasing the awareness of 2% population in Hatcliffe extension Zimbabwe on civic education to actively participate in electoral process

iii. Advocating for youth representation in both Kenya and Zimbabwe to seat in government development planning committees

**Project Activities**

i. Youth organizations assessment visits

We conducted assessment visits physically to the proposed beneficiaries of the project. The organization developed an assessment tool which was used in determining the beneficiaries of the project. Before conducting the assessment, we developed an online application and sent to our different social media platforms including our website. We received about 25 youth organizations then held meetings to shortlist the top 15 which we visited physically with assessment tools. During the shortlisting, we had both outside and inside panels to select the organization based on certain criteria set. The assessment begun on 28-6-2018 .We managed to visit 12 organizations at their respective sub counties 1-Likoni, 7-Mvita, 1-Kisauni, 1-Nyali, 1-Jomvu, 1-Changamwe

![Our staffs conducting youth groups assessment physically in the field](image)
ii. Holding projects meetings

We held 2 projects meetings in Kenya. The 1st meeting was held to highlight about the project, some of its goals and objectives. The 2nd meeting was held to monitor and evaluate the projects achievements, successes, impact and challenges faced. The project supported staffs and beneficiaries of the project during these meetings.

![Image 1](attachment:closure_meeting_of_the_project_by_staffs_and_some_of_the_beneficiaries)

**Closure meeting of the project by staffs and some of the beneficiaries**

![Image 2](attachment:i-vip_project_officer_giving_out_her_presentation_of_the_project_to_the_staffs_and_beneficiaries)

**I-VIP project officer giving out her presentation of the project to the staffs and beneficiaries**

iii. Establishments of youth governance network

We established youth governance network after conducting the training on county planning processes for the 12 youth organizations. The youth governance network would spearhead all development matters pertaining youths in Mombasa County.

![Image 3](attachment:youth_governance_network_meeting)

**Youth governance network meeting**
iv. Holding meetings with local leaders

We held 2 project meetings with local government leaders in Mombasa County. The meetings were aimed at building working relationships between the local government officials and youths in order for mutual benefit. The local leaders met were representative from youth departments within the county government.

![Image of meeting](image1.png)

**Our organization executive director leading discussion during meeting of youth organizations and local leaders**

**One of the local leader responding to questions from the youths during local leaders meeting**

v. Training youth organizations on county development planning processes

We conducted two trainings on county development planning processes for two days each reaching to 56 youths 23 males and 33 females. We trained 12 youth organizations representative from the 6 sub-counties of Mombasa County. We partnered with Muslims for Human Rights (MUHURI) to train the youth organizations. We held two different trainings as per sub-counties and met village administrators as per the sub-counties.

![Image of training](image2.png)

**Facilitator engaging participants during training**  **Energizers incorporated during the training**
### Outcomes of the Project

| Youth organization assessments visits | • 12 youth organizations visited and assessed  
• Established database of the 12 youth organizations to benefit from the project |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Youth governance network             | • Established network of the 12 youth organizations within Mombasa County  
• Strengthened working relationship between the local leaders and youth organizations within Mombasa County  
• Improved engagement with the local leaders on development matters at the county. |
| Meetings with local leaders          | • Trained 56 youths on county planning development processes  
• Increased knowledge on county planning development processes to 12 youth organizations  
• Increased knowledge on advocacy and engagement with policy makers  
• Increased ability of 12 youth organizations to develop advocacy messages/action points |
| Training youth organizations         | • 48% of the youths trained participated in finance bill hearing in Tononoka hall through submission of action points |
| Public participation                 | • Supported one of our training by providing meals and refreshments for the participants  
• Strengthened working relationship between the two organization |
| Partnership forged                   | • Technical assistance towards the project  
• Strengthened working relationship |

**Type of partnership**

<table>
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<th>Partnership forged</th>
<th>Type of partnership</th>
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| MUHURI (NGO)                        | • Supported one of our training by providing meals and refreshments for the participants  
• Strengthened working relationship between the two organization |
| Youth Alive! Kenya (NGO)            | • Technical assistance towards the project  
• Strengthened working relationship |
12 youth led organizations
- Strengthened a stronger grassroots network of youth organizations

Challenges

- During the project implementation, we received an email from the donor wanting the final report by 15th October which as per the work-plan and timelines it wasn’t supposed to end at that date. This forced us to restructure the project hence interfering with the smooth floor of the project.

Lessons Learnt

- There is need to build capacities of youth and youth organizations on county development planning processes for them to meaningfully engage decision makers on policies and budgets issues.
- Effective advocacies involve positively engaging policy/decision makers to the desired change intended to be affected.

Pathways of Change

“"I didn’t know about how the county and national government work. Devolution came but I didn’t actually know the difference roles of county administrators and member of county assemblies. This training has come at right time and thanks Stretchers through I-VIP project for empowering me. I now know their roles and how to engage them.”

Josephine Zawadi- I-VIP beneficiary

“"I-VIP has made me realize that I should participate in all public hearings because I now know better that it's my responsibility so as to stop complaining and blame games when the county government doesn't fulfill its duties. It has built my capacity to address policy/decision makers comfortably with issues affecting youths. I feel empowered thanks to Stretchers Youth Organization.”

Zipporah Njoki- I-VIP beneficiary

Conclusion

From implementation of this project, we as an organization would love to take this opportunity to thank LSU and Youth Alive! Kenya for their financial support. We also wish to thank all the participants throughout this project for their commitment and participation throughout the process. We would also wish to thank all the staff for their support throughout the implementation period.