Project Name: Securing Young Defenders
Project Target: Young Human Rights Defenders
Project Duration: May- August 2018
Project Donor: Protection International
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

Our Core Programme Areas

- HIV prevention- To contribute towards preventing new HIV infections and ending AIDS in Kenya
- Sexual and Reproductive Health & Rights- To contribute to universal access to comprehensive, responsive and high quality services for all adolescents and young people
- Comprehensive Sexuality Education- To contribute towards quality and comprehensive age appropriate sexuality education among adolescents and young people.

Our Key Strategies

- Policy advocacy and working with partners, the Kenya national and county governments
- Delivery of innovative programmes to increase access to the most vulnerable and marginalized communities
- Strengthening, building and establishments of adolescents and young peoples’ network to champion for their issues

Our Priority Populations

- Adolescents aged 10-18 years
- Young people 10-24 years
About Protection International (Protect Defenders)

ProtectDefenders.eu is the European Union Human Rights Defenders mechanism, established to protect defenders at high risk and facing the most difficult situations worldwide. Led by a Consortium of 12 NGOs active in the field of Human Rights ProtectDefenders.eu provides a stable, comprehensive and gender-sensitive EU support to individuals and local actors who strive to promote and defend human rights worldwide.

ProtectDefenders.eu is committed to reaching Human Rights Defenders working in remote areas and countries where it is particularly dangerous to work in human rights defense. It also focuses on defenders who are especially targeted, including women human rights defenders, defenders of LGBTI rights, land and environmental rights defenders, economic and social rights defenders, defenders of minorities, lawyers, and those fighting for freedom of expression and association.

ProtectDefenders.eu is supported by the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR), which provides for 95% of its funding.

with the fears that they can be a soft target by government due to lack of proper legal and financial muscles.

Most of the young human rights defenders in Mombasa county fears to confront government when there is violation of human rights or corruption cases due to intimidation and attacks by the government, this is due to lack of one voice and structured system that the young human rights defenders voice can contribute towards developments.

SEYODE OBJECTIVE

- Enhance HRDs skills in security management to equip the HRDs with basic physical and digital security skills and knowledge.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES OF THE PROJECT

- Enhanced organizational office security
- Established young HRD network in Mombasa County
- Enhanced staffs knowledge and skills on physical and digital security management

OVERVIEW OF SEYODE PROJECT

There has been a constant attack of the well-established Human Rights Organizations by the government especially at the coast region. This has slowed down the efficiency and effectiveness of the emerging young human rights organizations in Mombasa.
ACTIVITIES

1. OFFICE SECURITY ENHANCEMENT

The project made several interventions in securing the office. The project secured a server which enabled confidential and private documents to be secured in the server. We also managed to partitioned finance office, bought lockable cabinets, modern padlocks and grilled doors and windows. We installed fire extinguishers and first aid box.

2. STAFF TRAINING

Fire, safety and data encryption training for staffs members and office security enhancement- on 25th/June/2018 we conducted a one day staffs fire and safety training to equip staff members with basic skills and knowledge in fire, response to emergency in office and safety management. The training reached 7 males and 6 females with a total of 13 participants. The training was held organization boardroom Mombasa-Kenya.

Organization staffs taken through fire safety skills and knowledge
3. DIGITAL AND PHYSICAL TRAINING

Physical, data encryption and digital security training- This training reached to 37 young human rights defenders from 6th-10th August 2018, 17 males and 20 females. The young human rights defenders were trained on physical and digital security management skills, identification of risks, data encryption, threats and how to deal with them, empowered to develop security plans for themselves and their organizations. The training was held at Panaroma Hotel Mombasa County.

Opening remarks from the organization executive director during the training
4. HRD NETWORK FORMATION

Mombasa County Young Human Rights Defenders Network Formation - This activity reached to 32 participants, 13 males and 19 females on 17th August 2018. The activity focused on identification of SWOTs for each organization based on thematic areas and profiling of the network. We developed the network profile and established a leadership structure.

Outcomes of the project

| Staffs and security enhancement Training | Staffs members are able to respond to any fire outbreak within the office and other forms of emergencies. Currently we are developing fire and safety management policy for the organization. Fire extinguishers and first aid kit have been installed and staffs members are empowered of their usage. The office now has grilled windows and doors, purchased |
modern padlocks, office server installed and partitioned finance office with lockable cabinets.

| HRD formation | Formation of young HRD network that is more united and committed to working together. The network developed its own profile with clear leadership structure and network meetings. It received recognition in the community which led to its inclusion in the bigger CSOs coast region reference group and had an exchange program with a youth justice network from Nairobi County. As a network we had one press release asking government to create safe space for young HRD. |
| Digital and physical training | 37 young human rights defenders reached with physical, data encryption and digital security skills and knowledge. The trained 12 youth organizations developed security plans for themselves and their organizations to be implemented. Increased partnership with Kenya National Commission for Human Rights, National Coalition for Human Rights Defenders Kenya and Independent Police Oversight Authority. As an organization we are currently developing data management policy. |

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<tr>
<th>Partnership Forged</th>
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| Partnership forged | Supported one of our activities through facilitation of meals and refreshments for our participants  
Strengthened working relationship between the two organization |
| Article 19        |                           |
| National Coalition for Human Rights Defenders-Kenya | Supported one of our activities through facilitation of transport for our participants  
Strengthened working relationship between the two organization |
Kenya National Commission for Human Rights  | Technical assistance towards the project
Strengthened working relationship between the two organization

Independent Police Oversight Authority  | Strengthened working relationship between the two organization
Conducted facilitation during the training

12 youth led organizations  | Strengthened a stronger grassroots network of youth organizations

Challenges

- During the project time the funds came a bit late, forced to start implementation so late, and had to push for the work to be completed during scheduled period.
- The amount of budget that was received was less expected and had to resource mobilized to raise the deficit hence interruption the smooth flow of implementation.
- During the training, some key elements were not captured, as it was so by the facilitators not making to the training.

Lessons Learnt

- Through network formation, it was evident that coming together can help in shaping the current human right environment in Kenya in making government bodies accountable and act accordingly.
- Security management is not essential to only an organization but individuals as well, since a number of HRDs have had the challenge of Hacking without their knowledge and pose a threat to their organizations and families.

Pathways of Change

“From SeYoDe training, the topics taught especially on Data protection was so important since we share an office with the Member of county assembly and with a number of movements in and out puts the organization data at risk. So after the training received from Stretchers Youth Organization we now safeguard our documents and have a cloud back up of most of our sensitive documents and can access the documents wherever we are. As organization we thank SYO”

Mustard Youth group beneficiary

“The project was so good for our organization since it was an eye opener for us. The way we ran our organization was so poor putting us at risk of attack but now we know how to handle. But as an organization we still have challenges on some key internal structure of our institution and we seek if Stretchers can assist in capacity strengthening our institution.”

Kadzandani Creative youth group beneficiary
“The project was so successful to us; this is because it has brought another aspect of networking between an institution that focuses on Key populations and the general population. This has brought about positive synergy in working together in advocating for rights of both the general population and key population since most project focuses on one cohort at a time but for SeYoDe it is all inclusive. We thanks Stretchers for the skills and knowledge we gained from this project”

Rainbow Women Youth organization beneficiary

“SeYoDe project has brought about networking of organizations and strengthening the environment where they operate by bringing organizations from all the 6 sub-counties. This is one of the strengths when it comes to advocating for issues regarding human rights in Mombasa County. The greatest of it all is being part of the formed SeYoDe network.”

Kishoka Youth Group beneficiary

Conclusion

From implementation of this project, we as an organization would love to take this opportunity to thank protection international and National Coalition on Human Rights 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.