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| Danish organisation | Danish Minorities’ Centre for Human Rights and Development (DMC-HRD) |
| Title of the intervention | Facilitating Young Women’s Civic Participation in Chipata District of Zambia |
| Partner name(s) | Lucy Grand Foundation (LGF) |
| Amount applied for | 99.875,00 Danish Kroner |
| Country(ies) | Zambia |
| Period (# of months) | Six (6) months |

1. **Objective and relevance (the world around us)**

* **What do you want to achieve through the intervention?**

This intervention has the overall objective of facilitating informed participation of young women aged 16-24 in local democracy and development processes in Chipata district of Zambia, where they have the biggest chance of influencing decisions around their socio-economic condition. Unlike their male counterparts, young women in Chipata District have largely been omitted as beneficiaries of government Youth Economic Empowerment Grants due to the fact that young women are not organised and have no platform for mobilising themselves to express their voice and defend their economic rights. Further, as a consequence of not being organised, young women in the district have lacked representation in all the eleven (11) Ward Development Coordinating Committees (WDCCs) in the district; WDCCs are local level decision making structures comprising community stakeholders such as elected officials and representatives of traditional authorities, faith organisations, women’s organisation and youth organisations. WDCCs are mandated by government to identify development priorities at local level and allocate Youth Economic Empowerment Grants for youths to engage in businesses as a way of reducing unemployment and poverty. Women aged over 25 years and Male youths are represented in WDCCs while young women are not represented in WDCCS. This intervention has been planned as a First phase and will be scaled-up in phase Two.

* **Why is the intervention important?**

This intervention is important because it shall facilitate the recognition of young women as a community stakeholder group that ought to be consulted, represented and participate in the conduct of civic, political and development affairs of the district. At the core of the challenges facing young women in Chipata district is lack of recognition of young women as a community stakeholder that ought to have a voice in developmental affairs of the district and have equal access to government economic empowerment programmes just like male youths and women over 25 years. Other than facilitating the recognition of young women as a community stakeholder that ought to have a say in developmental agenda of the district, this intervention is important because it shall also facilitate the creation of a platform for young women’s civic participation in the district and empower them with skills to lobby and advocate for representation in WDCCs and for equal access to Youth Economic Empowerment Grants. To be precise, this intervention shall lead to the establishment of a Young Women’s Civic Engagement Forum (YWCEF) that will be used by young women in the district to advocate for young women’s’ development needs and rights, and further its shall facilitate representation of young women in WDCCs so they could have an influence on the developmental agenda of the district and allocation of Youth Economic Empowerment Grants to deserving youths regardless of gender.

* **Describe the context of the intervention**

This intervention will be implemented in Chipata District, the administrative district of East Province of Zambia. The district comprises 11 wards (electoral boundaries) which have their own decision making structure known as Ward Development Coordinating Committees (WDCCs). The WDCCs comprise elected officials and representatives of community stakeholder groups at ward level. While young men are represented in WDCCs, young women are not represented in the WDCCs. The population of Chipata is about 460, 000 people. A majority of the people in Chipata live in rural parts of the district and depend on peasant farming as a source of livelihood and about one-third of the population reside in and around the city area of Chipata and are mostly engaged in informal trading as a source of livelihood, while a few are mainly employed in retail shops and government institutions. Over half of the population in the district live on less than $1.90 a day.

Unemployment is very high in Chipata District because there is hardly any industry that would employ people in the district. In 2021, unemployment rate was about 13%. In comparison to young men, most young women in the district possess low education attainment and insufficient skills to be engaged in formal employment, as a consequence, a bulk of the unemployed in Chipata District are young women aged 16-24. Due to lack of employment, most young women are housewives and some are involved in informal trading in the streets. As a consequence of not being economically empowered, young women are susceptible to getting involved in illicit activities and are also prone to abuse and manipulation.

To mitigate unemployment among young people, the government of Zambia introduced Youth Economic Employment Grants that would be given to youths as start-up capital for business ventures, an aspect that has enabled a number of youths in the district to be self-employed. Though Youth Economic Empowerment Grants are meant to be accessed by all youths regardless of gender, young women in Chipata District have been omitted as beneficiaries of the empowerment grants. Following the Zambian General Elections held in August 2021, the new government in Zambia has increased the budgetary allocation for Youth Economic Empowerment Grants. The government has increased Constituency Development Fund which includes Youth Economic Empowerment Grants from US$100,000 (K1, 700,000) to about to US$1,500,000 (K25, 000,000). By law, beneficiaries of Youth Economic Empowerment Grants are identified by WDCCs. Since Chipata District comprises two constituencies, the combined amount that will be administered by the eleven (11) WDCCs is US$3,000,000. The increase in the amount of money that will be controlled by the WDCCs will make it more important for the young women to be represented in WDCCs and contribute towards decisions on development priorities in the district and also influence decisions on the identification of Youth Economic Empowerment Grant beneficiaries.

**Describe how this intervention can contribute to supporting collaboration, public engagement and civil organising and how this in time will contribute to social justice**

At the beginning of this intervention, a stakeholders’ forum will be held that will bring together a variety of stakeholders to support this intervention. The stakeholders that shall be brought together to support this intervention shall include traditional authorities, faith leaders, community leaders, elected officials, local government authorities, women’s’ NGOs and Youth NGOs. The stakeholders will be conscientised around young women’s issues and rights. During the period of the intervention, a dialogue meeting between young women and stakeholders will be conducted across all the 11 Wards in Chipata District, the dialogue meeting between young women and stakeholders will provide an opportunity for young women to share their issues of concern with the stakeholders and engage in a dialogue on how to address the young women’s issues of concern. The dialogue meeting between the stakeholders and young women will also be used for lobbying for the representation of young women in WDCCs. The background of this intervention lies in the fact that young women in Chipata district have not had equal access to government’s citizen’s economic empowerment programmes because preference for economic empowerment support programmes for youths and women is given to male youths and women over 25 years; further, the background of this intervention lies in the fact that unlike male youths and women over 25 years, young women in the district are not represented in any of the 11 WDCCs nor in any other decision making structure in the district. As already alluded to above, the government of Zambia has increased budgetary allocation for Constituency Development Funds meant for development projects and allocation of Youth Economic Empowerment Grants which are administered by WDCCs; the increase of the grants entails that the WDCCs will have more resources to enable more youths access Youth Economic Empowerment Grants and it will have more resources to disperse towards development intervention in communities. In view of the increased funding to WDCCs, it has become more important than ever to facilitate the representation of young women in WDCCs so they could influence on decisions around the development agenda of the district and also lobby for equal access to the increased Youth Economic Empowerment Funding.

**What climate- and environmental conditions do the partnership and/or the intervention need to respond to? And how have the partners responded to it?**

As responsible global citizens, the partners involved in this intervention will take every effort to ensure to it that this intervention does not contribute to the harming of the environment. Throughout the implementation of this intervention, all services and materials to be used in the intervention shall be environmentally friendly and will have a low carbon footprint. As a strategy of contributing towards protecting the environment and mitigating against climate change, use of vehicles in this intervention will be minimal and where transport will be required, high carbon emitting vehicles will not be used as transport for any activity linked to this intervention, and further, to minimise use of international flights, only one project visit to Zambia has been planned so as to reduce the carbon footprint of this intervention.

2.0 The partnership/collaborators (our starting point)

This intervention will be undertaken by the Danish Minorities’ Centre for Human Rights and Development (DMC-HRD), a Danish organisation and Lucy Grand Foundation (LGF), a women focused Non -Governmental organisation based in Zambia. DMC-HRD and LGF established a partnership with each other in 2020, however discussions that led to this partnership began in 2019 when LGF activists participated in a workshop held by DMC-HRD in Zambia, and later, the activists from LGF engaged DMC-HRD for a collaboration on a project to increase young women’s participation in governance processes. In March 2020, DMC-HRD supported LGF in holding a training on Social Auditing in Chipata District. In September 2021, DMC-HRD and LGF began brainstorming on a project to promote young women’s economic rights and participation in decision making processes. This project proposal is a calumniation of the brainstorming processes that began in September 2021. Both LGF and DMC-HRD possess experience of having worked around facilitating citizenry participation in governance.

**• Describe the partners and other actors’ contributions, roles, and responsibilities.**

**The Danish Minorities’ Centre for Human Rights and Development (DMC-HRD)**

The Danish Minorities’ Centre for Human Rights and Development (DMC-HRD) is a Danish based NGO registered in Denmark in 2014. DMC-HRD has worked on development projects in Kenya, Zimbabwe, Zambia and Malawi, and on civic engagement projects in Denmark. The work of DMC-HRD has focused around promoting effective citizen’s participation in governance, including activities aimed at increasing women’s participation in governance processes; for instance in 2018 in Zimbabwe, DMC-HRD was involved in a project aimed at increasing the participation of young women in electoral processes as voters and as election monitors; and in 2019 in Zambia, DMC-HRD supported an activity aimed at strengthening the capacity of Young Women to effectively participate in governance processes. DMC-HRD has worked in Kenya, Zimbabwe, Zambia and Malawi on projects aimed at protecting the integrity of electoral processes. DMC-HRD has also been involved to protecting media freedoms and rights of journalists; with the support of Global Fokus, DM-HRD in January-February 2022, supported its partner organisation in Zambia with resources to protect the media from state interference and intimidation. DMC-HRD has been active in Denmark at facilitating the civic engagement of ethnic minorities. Activities of DMC-HRD are overseen and approved of by a Board currently comprising five individuals who have experience of working within development work abroad and/or have been active in Danish NGOs. The Secretariat of DMC-HRD comprises a team of volunteers skilled in managing development projects; this team is headed by an individual experienced in development work and is a PHD Candidate in Gender and Development.

**Lucy Grand Foundation (LGF)**

Lucy Grand Foundation (LGF) is a women focused organisation which was formed in 2016 and registered as an NGO in Zambia. LGF is a leading advocacy organisation in Chipata district around women’s rights and has worked with major stakeholders including local government authorities, traditional leaders, faith based organisations and international NGOs such as Care and ActionAid International in protecting and defending the rights of women in Chipata and surrounding Districts. The organization has been engaged in facilitating the participation of women in contributing towards development policies. LGF has a vast grass root support of volunteers across all the 11 Wards in Chipata. LGF will use it grass root support of volunteers during the implementation of this intervention. LGF is headed by Ruth Phiri, a gender activist who holds a Master’s Degree in Gender Studies. Ruth has experience of working on development projects for NGOs. Ruth will be responsible for effective implementation of this intervention.

**We give an overview of the roles and responsibilities in the table below:**

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|  | **Partner role** | |
| **Area/aspect** | **DMC-HRD** | **LGF** |
| Overall project coordination | From the Danish side, DMC-HRD oversees the overall project coordination – setting into place implementation frameworks and plans for ensuring that the project is a success | LGF facilitates DMC-HRD to understand their local context in relation to the ambition to realize this project, and inputs into the entire planning process context-based knowledge that optimizes project success |
| Local implementation in Zimbabwe | DMC-HRD has the responsibility to follow-up and remotely monitor what goes on in Zambia. This they get through online meetings, one-time monitoring visits, bi-monthly reports, and constant emailing/communication | LGF is the main responsible partner in relation to implementing of all the activities in Zambia. LGF also has the responsibility to carryout local monitoring, bi-monthly reporting to DMC-HRD (both narrative & financial), being part of online meetings for monitoring and taking care of the local partnership in Zambia |
| Budgets and accounting | DMC-HRD has overall coordinator will oversee budgets and accountability across the project, and CISU. | LGF will do the financial management locally and is responsible for holding the rules/laws of the local context. |
| Intervention Publicity in Denmark | DMC-HRD will share information around the intervention with its members, volunteers and stakeholders in Denmark | LGF will support with the necessary information inputs |

3.0 Target groups, objectives, and expected results (our intervention)

* **Who will benefit from the intervention? How many people will benefit in total?**

The primary beneficiaries of this intervention are young women aged 16-24 from across all the 11 Wards of Chipata District. An initial core group of 44 young women will be carefully identified from across all the 11 Wards in Chipata District and capacity built to become the ripple through which this intervention will be disseminated to other young women. About 3000 more young women will be reached through community radio and during dialogue meeting to be held across all 11 Wards in Chipata District.

Throughout the intervention, secondary stakeholders will be engaged to help in the actualization of this intervention. Secondary stakeholders will consist of:

1. Two (2) young female gender rights activists in Zambia will identified and involved to motivate and inspire the core group of 44 young women to be activists as part of capacity building of core group
2. Eleven (11) Councilors (elected local government ward representatives) who are part of the WDCCs
3. Fifteen (15) Traditional/Community leaders/Faith Leaders who are part of the WDCCs
4. Five (5) representatives of existing civil society organizations in the district will be involved to support the intervention
5. Three (3) representatives from the National Youth Development Council, a government body that will register the Young Women’s Civic Empowerment Forum and continue to build the capacity of the young women through the established Young Women’s Civic Engagement Forum
6. Two community Radio Stations in their capacity as institutions will be involved to support dissemination of information around the objectives and activities of the intervention

**Overall Objective and Specific Objectives**

In line with the overall objectives of this intervention which is: To facilitate informed participation of young women aged 16-24 in local democracy and development processes in Chipata district of Zambia, where they have the biggest chance of influencing decisions around their socio-economic condition; the specific objectives of this intervention are:

1. To build the capacity of a core group of 44 young women from across the 11 Wards of Chipata so they could have the ability to engage decision makers and influence decisions around their socio-economic condition and advocate their access to Youth Economic Empowerment Grants
2. To facilitate the establishment of a Young Women’s Civic Engagement Forum (YWCEF) as a space for young women’s civic participation and for advancing the rights of young women in the District
3. To facilitate the engagement of young women in lobbing for representation WDCCs and to facilitate advocacy for young women’s access to Youth Economic Empowerment Grants

**•Describe how the intervention will be implemented:**

Four (4) young women representing each of the 11 wards Chipata District will be carefully identified by LGF in consultation with community members in each of the 11 Wards to form a core group comprising a total of 44 young women. The core group of young women will serve as ripples through which this intervention will be disseminated to other young women across all the 11 wards in Chipata District. The core group will be conscientised on political rights, equipped with knowledge on local governance processes and empowered with skills on campaigning, lobby and advocacy. As part of this intervention, a Young Women’s Civic Engagement Forum will be established as a platform for mobilising more young women and for the civic participation of young women in the district. The forum will also serve as a platform for lobbying for young women’s representation in WDCCs and advocating for young women’s access to Youth Economic Empowerment Grants.

As a way of creating reaching more young women, community radio stations will be utilised to disseminate information around the intervention and attract more young women to be part of the Young Women’s Civic Engagement Forum to be established as part of this intervention.

A stakeholders’ meeting will be conducted were both primary and secondary stakeholders will be sensitized around this intervention and were support will be solicited for secondary stakeholders to support this intervention and support the Young Women’s Civic Engagement Forum during its initial stages. During the period of the intervention, dialogue meetings between stakeholders who are members of WDCCs and young women will be held to discuss issues of concern to young women and find solutions to resolving young women’s issues; the dialogue meeting will also be used for lobbying for the representation of young women in all the 11 WDCCs in Chipata.

**What activities will be carried out? With whom? And when?**

***The table below shows the activities to be implemented, their output and their proposed timelines*.**

| **Period** | **Main Activity** | **Sub Activities** | **Output** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| May, 2022 | •Community Mobilization and sensitization of young women and secondary stakeholders on intervention | •Organise a stakeholders’ forum comprising 80 primary and secondary stakeholders to sensitise them on the intervention.  • Arrange a Radio phone-in discussion programme where stakeholders and young women discuss issue round young women | • 80 stakeholders are sensitised about the intervention and are willing to support the advancement of young women’s rights  • 3000 community members across 11 Wards in Chipata are made aware about the intervention and young women’s issues and rights |
| June/July, 2022 | •Capacity Building of Young Women | • Develop training manual for capacity building of young women.  • Arrange Training Workshop for the core group of 44 young women on civic and political rights, local governance processes, and campaigning, lobby and advocacy | • Training manual is produced and ready for use  • 44 young women gain knowledge on local governance processes and political rights, and gain skills in campaigning, lobbying and advocacy. |
| July/Aug, 2022 | •Establish a Young Women’s Civic Engagement Forum | **•**Formalise the establishment of the Young Women’s Civic Engagement Forum (YWCEF)  **•**Communicate to Local Government Officials and other key community stakeholders around the formation of the YWCEF  • Arrange 2 Radio phone-in programmes to inform young women & public on the role of the Young Women’s Civic Engagement Forum and young women’s issues and rights | • A platform for the civic participation of young women for is established and operational  • Local Government authorities and key stakeholders agree to provide continued support to YWCEF  • 3000 Young women and are made aware of the established Young Women’s Civic Engagement Forum |
| Aug/ Sept 2022 | •Project visit and monitoring  •Hold Dialogue Meetings between Young Women and WDCC members and stakeholders | **•**Arrange one visit to Zambia by two DMC-HRD Project team members for project visit monitoring, and brainstorming session with Local partner on next steps and phase two of the intervention  **•** Organise Dialogue Meetings between Young women and WDCCs as well as other community stakeholders in all eleven (11) WDCCs | • DMC-HRD monitors intervention, attends some activities and gains in-depth understanding of intervention context  • Future steps and strategies on phase two of intervention are agreed and a grant proposal is prepared  • Community Stakeholders and All 11 WDCCs are conscientised about young women’s rights, issues and development priorities  • Young Women are represented in each of the 11 WDCCs |
| Sept/Oct  2022 | •Final Report Writing | Draft Final Project and Financial Report | • Final Project and Financial Reports are prepared and submitted |

1. Intervention-related information work in Denmark

**NOTE: reply only if the intervention includes information work in Denmark.**