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| Danish organisation | Architects Without Borders Denmark (AWB) – *Humanitarian organization that uses architecture and planning as tools for enabling development* |
| Title of the intervention | **Strategic Community Collaboration for Youth and Children development** |
| Partner name(s) | Arts of Music Foundation (AMF) – *Kenyan organization that promotes the performance and appreciation of art music to use its transformative power to change lives.* |
| Amount applied for | 458.979DKK |
| Country(ies) | Denmark and Kenya |
| Period (# of months) | 10 |
| If re-submission or in continuation of a previous intervention, please insert journal number | 22-4021-CSP-MI |

The project's scope will be focused on the area within the St John's Centre that is in Korogocho slum in Nairobi, Kenya between the villages of Ngomongo and Highridge, as this is where most of the proposed partners who are willing to participate in the project already operate from and provide services within this community.

1. Objective and relevance (the world around us)

**Resume**

Architects Without Borders and Art of Music Foundation want to work together with St John’s community center stakeholders to develop a sustainable community by creating network collaboration with other non-profit organizations within the community. The aim is to elevate the social and economic conditions of Korogocho residents and especially the users at St. John community center by planning a long-term development of the existing and future buildings and landscape which will be divided in phases.

**Main objective**

The objective is to formalise the existing network among local NGO’s based in St. John community center so they can collectively and strategically work together with Architect Without Borders to plan and create a child-friendly, inclusive, safe, inspiring, healthy facilities and spaces that can be the generating forces for more impact and positive action and change in their local community. Through user involvement and participatory planning Architect Without Borders and the formal network of local Ngo’s at St. john aims to develop a workplan for better learning infrastructure focused on music, sports, advocacy, and academics. The intervention will have direct impact on more than 500 youths and children and their families. The strategy will follow a long-term phase Masterplan for St. John’s existing and future buildings and landscape. The Masterplan will relate and follow `The sustainable Development Goals Barometer` SDG 17 UN goals.

**Challenges that need to be addressed**

1. Korogocho is one of the toughest slums in Nairobi with many challenges such as unemployment, poverty, peer pressure for youths to join gangs and criminality, diseases, crime, poor sanitation, illicit liquor, which is readily available at all corners, and most houses are single headed. Korogocho has a high level of unemployment as more than 50 % of young people are unemployed, with limited access to formal education. Therefore, many children and youths of Korogocho do not have access to school due to the poverty or unemployment of their parents. Consequently, there is an enormous need for youth-led development initiatives focusing on education and employment
2. One of the greatest challenges in youth empowerment and participation is how to ensure young people to be enthusiastic about causing transformation in Kenya. Youth empowerment and participation is the essential force for causing such transformation. Young people need a youth branded platform from where they can speak powerfully, take appropriate action, and inspire belief that will have a catalytic impact all over the country through youth-led development initiatives.
3. Leisure, recreation, good infrastructure, utilities, and community/social services are all important for the psychological and physical development of children and youth and contribute to a young person’s personal development by promoting good health, personal discipline, leadership, community engagement and team building skills. They also provide opportunity for appreciation, participation, and creative experience in leisure, music, art, dance, drama crafts, novelty events service, and cultural activities. Sadly, these benefits and privileges are underserved in this community where people scrounge for even most basic needs. Unemployment among the youths in the slum creates needs for productive and positive activation for better use of their leisure time, spaces to express their beliefs and values as well as promote and preserve local art and culture for the benefit of the future generations. With minimal financial, inadequate social, educational and health resources, coupled with the very challenging air pollution from the landfill at Korogocho, the collaborating partners see an opportunity to collectively advocate for better infrastructure, amenities, basic utilities for the community. With emphasis on the St John’s Centre which plays a vital role in community integration, the partnership will seek to begin its activities in establishing safer, cleaner, and adequate space for the community.
   1. **Describe the context of the intervention**

Kenya’s capital, Nairobi, has more than 40 areas defined as slums and approximately 60% of Nairobi’s population, of 4.4 million people, live in low-income settlements. Kenya is a very youthful country – those aged between 18 and 35 make up 75% of Kenya’s population. Unfortunately, a substantial percentage of this population is unemployed and feel marginalized in terms of access to opportunities, representation, and participation.

In Kiswahili, Korogocho means "crowded shoulder to shoulder." It is one of Nairobi's largest slums, with a population of 150,000 to 200,000 people and an area of no more than 1.5 square kilometres. There is the little formal infrastructure to serve the residents of Korogocho. Most of the housing was built by the families who live there and is made of found or recycled materials. The area is well-known for its high rates of poverty, crime, alcohol and drug abuse, domestic violence, widespread HIV/AIDS, and the nauseating odour and smouldering smoke emanating from the nearby landfill obscuring the vision of those who live nearby.

The youth and children are the primary victims of Korogocho's economic, social, and environmental challenges. These challenges include a high rate of unemployment, poverty, peer pressure, disease, a high crime rate, and a high suicide rate – all of which are social and environmental issues that these children and youths face daily. The only thing that appears to keep them from engaging in criminality and drug abuse is participation in activities organized by local non-profit organizations within the St. John's Centre and Korogocho, such as music, sport, dance, and other after-school programmes that inspire them and provide them with lifelong learning and quality arts education. Despite being direct victims of these social and environmental challenges, the youth, and children of Korogocho are also the community's most asset for future development, as they are the driving force behind entrepreneurship, creative development, and extensive community activism.

Since 2008, the Art of Music Foundation's Ghetto Classics Programme has been operating in Korogocho, providing a platform for approximately 500 school-aged children and youth (12-25 years) to receive art music instruction, appreciation, and expression training. However, the residents of the Korogocho community continue struggle to earn a basic living, raise families, and even educate their children. As a result, the Art of Music has found itself having to deal with more than just music instruction, instead it has widened its offering to provide basic rent, food, transport. and formal education for its beneficiaries through its own local and international network over the years.

**Fragile/not fragile context**

The project takes place in Kenya, mostly seen as non-fragile country, and in a non-conflicting context. Yet due to the context of an informal settlement, the intervention includes notable patterns of fragility:

***Political fragility****:* As with all highly populated environments, the inevitably become targets for political clamour where politicians promise the world but never deliver on their promises. Over the years, this has led to a sense of disenfranchisement and has raised the volatility of the community who no longer believe in the leadership of the country but are willing to receive momentary gratification through handouts during political campaigns.

***Social fragility****:* As most urban slums poll tribally, and the few non-dominant tribes living amongst them become targets for social bullying and gang violence perpetrated in the name of self-defence and survival dividing the community and making it difficult to unite the community beyond the basic need to survive.

***Economic fragility****: As with all urban slums, the ability to earn even the most basic income has always proved to be a challenge, and Korogocho is no different. With the unstable economy, coupled with the ongoing pandemic, the residents of Korogocho find themselves hard pressed to feed their families or to just survive and as a result, they desperately cling to any mode of income generation, many resorting to unscrupulous ways of earning a living. This has spoken to the fragility of the social, economic and security of Korogocho.*

***Climate and environmental fragility****: The uncontrolled dumping site in Korogocho have resulted in a multitude of hazardous and environmentally unsound living conditions. From unclean air, to polluted water, chemical waste and mountains of non-degradable plastic have contributed to a very unhealthy living environment. These conditions have further exacerbated*

***Security/safety fragility:*** *In addition to the political, social, economic, and environmental fragility, such an environment is predicted to produce a high level of insecurity for the sake of survival. As in a cascading effect, one situation generates a new set and level of security threats, exacerbating an already precarious environment.*

* 1. **Describe how this intervention will strengthen civil society organising**

The need to build a sustainable community by engaging and collaborating with other local non-profits and relevant partners to raise and improve the Korogocho residents' standard of living to protect future generations has become more apparent and necessary at this time. One such collaboration already established is between the Art of Music Foundation and the St John’s community centre, located in the heart of Korogocho. St. John’s community centre has various facilities that provide for education (a kindergarten and primary school and library), community engagement (the community centre) and sports grounds (a field and basketball court) where hundreds of the Korogocho residents interact for different activities daily. The St. John’s community centre has organically evolved to become a hub for local non-profits, which serve and support the community and are able to operate from its premises and run their programmes and activities.

By taking a lead role in bringing the various local and community stakeholders (*residents of Korogocho slum, Nairobi City Council, Ministry of Local Government, Ministries of Health, Education, Sports, and Youth, Local NGO’s at St. John, The users of St. john, The Local counsel of Korogocho, and St. John Catholic Church*)

together, this intervention will play a critical role in:

* empowering youth to engage in civil work in their own communities
* managing resources by sharing the burden of cost in terms of resource mobilization especially for infrastructure, utilities, and development within the community.
* supporting the overall wellbeing of the community by providing much needed healthcare e.g., health screening, vaccinations, clean water, maternal mortality, and child welfare among others.
* Collecting and developing real and actionable information for mapping community needs, challenges, and development opportunities, among other things.
* Creating a powerful collective bargaining voice for presenting community change policies, security concerns, and development projects to relevant local authorities or even amongst themselves for the betterment of the community.

**1.4 What climate- and environmental conditions do the partnership and/or the intervention need to respond to?**

Korogocho borders Dandora landfill, the largest dumping site in Nairobi, located on an old quarry. This poses environmental health and security risks for the residents and the surrounding settlements, especially the youth and children using St. john centre as it is neighbouring the landfill. The intervention will respond to this environmental hazard by initiating community clean-up drives. With the extremely toxic air and water pollution that is prevalent within the community, a regular collaborative clean-up exercise will be organized and held to encourage awareness on a cleaner environment and a better waste disposal system.

Furthermore, we will take these measures to reduce our carbon footprint in this intervention

* minimising project travels to only 2 site visits over a period of 10 months
* Booking only non-stop flights as planes the most carbon during take-off and landing
* We will pack light when travellingas light packing will reduce fuel use and thus, the amount of carbon emitted.
* choosing efficient transportation during our stay project location

The intervention will strengthen and establish awareness of the SGD goals in particularly no. 4 “Quality Education”, 11 “Sustainable Cities and Communities” and 17 “Partnerships for the goals”. The chosen SGD goals will respond to the existing physical and psychological conditions harming the users at St. John and Korogocho in large.

The partnership/collaborators (our starting point)

**2.1 Describe the experiences, capacities, and resources of participant partners**

Architects Without Borders (AWB) is a Danish humanitarian organization that uses architecture and planning as tools for enabling development. AWB has several projects across the continent and is eager to establish a presence in Kenya. The Korogocho slum provides the organization with an excellent opportunity to improve the environment for children and youth by providing adequate, clean, and safe spaces for them to grow and live. Architects Without Borders will design, renovate, and build better spaces for children and youth by recruiting local young and upcoming architect graduates and working with potential local partners to change the landscape and community spaces. There are several examples of successful neighbourhood lifts, next to or close to St. Johns Centre. With resident involvement in strong organizations, it has i.a. resulted in well-maintained green areas, rainwater projects, safe streets, and street lighting, as well as organized garbage sorting and renovation.

The Art of Music Foundation (AMF) is a Kenyan organization that promotes the performance and appreciation of art music to use its transformative power to change lives*.* AMF is a well-established organization with 9 board members, 16 permanent staff, 35 active tutors, 6 active volunteers, and 1500 beneficiaries. AMF has established trust, acknowledgement, and strong support from Korogocho and the city of Nairobi, through 10 years of hard work and dedication. AMF has managed to establish strong partnerships and a support system from both national corporations such as Safaricom, their main donor, to the First Lady of Kenya, H.E Margaret Kenyatta, as their latest patron. AMF, having worked within the community since 2008, has made tremendous strides in providing creative expression through music, dance and drama for the children and youth to elevate their living conditions. Over the years, the Foundation has ensured that its beneficiaries within the community stay in school, have a roof over their heads, food on their table and whenever possible receive medical care through its activities, resource mobilization efforts and partnerships

Both organizations aspire to improve the lives of Korogocho's children and youth while also ensuring the long-term viability of their operations. With the same goal in mind, the two organizations envision doing more within the community by involving the community, its stakeholders, and partners to achieve this goal.

**The local organizations in the network**

All the local NGO’s including AMF operating within St. John are independent from the church and they are all established by local Kenyans most of them based in Korogocho. St. John church has been supportive in terms of facilitating space for them to operate their activities and programs.

The four organisations in the network are Art Music of Foundation and the following three:

St. John Sports Society (SSS), a local NGO established in Korogocho by youths. SSS arranges ten different sport disciplines including basketball, football, boxing etc. for the youth of Korogocho both boys and girls to avert criminality, alcoholism, and drugs abuse. SSS have both active girls and boys at their program. SSS consist of a team of 10 people including board members, operation team and volunteers.

St. John Justice center, a local initiative formed by a small group of 4 residents in Korogocho to support and assist the residents of their community with juristic, legal aid, and advocacy.

St. John public library, a local initiative formed by 5 youths that has established a public library with the intention of giving safe space for educational growth whereby youths in Korogocho uninterrupted can study and focus on their schoolwork. The library is very active as over 80 youth come and study daily. The NGO has collected over 6000 books through donations and the library is still growing.

The other potential collaboration partners include:

1. Nairobi Slums Human Rights Project
2. Child Spaces - Sports, child protection advocacy
3. Ministries of Health, Education, Sports, and Youth

**2.2** **Describe any previous acquaintance or cooperation between the partners, and how these experiences have fed into the development of the proposed intervention.**

In June 2019 Architects Without Borders embarked on a 10-day study trip to visit Korogocho and the local NGO, Art of Music Foundation (AMF), which is behind the Ghetto Classics music education program.

The study trip was successful as the two partners got the opportunity to establish a relationship with each other and Architect without Borders was introduced to the local NGO’s operating at St. John premises, the children and the youth actively using the centre, the tutors of the different programs, the active volunteers, the Pastor of St. John, Father Andrew, and the key stakeholders and influential figures of the community. The introduction was a steppingstone for further discussions and forum for exchange of ideas and thoughts regarding collaboration and partnerships.

**2.3** **Describe the contributions, roles, and responsibilities of the partners and other actors**

Roles and responsibilities of project partners:

Architects Without Borders Denmark (AWB) will be the international lead partner in charge of project management, finance and administration, collaboration facilitation, project monitoring, and final evaluation coordination. With the help of local partners, AWB will work on this first phase to gather information on local infrastructure, conditions, and challenges to map out a potential development plan for future designs, improvements, and facilities for urban and technical development within the community.

The Art of Music Foundation (AMF)will be the primary local partner in charge of daily project management and fund disbursement. AMF will direct community engagement and collaboration, including meeting facilitation, strategy development, community engagement, and collaboration with local stakeholders and authorities. The Art of Music, with its already strong influence and activities within the community, is deemed to be best placed to lead the local collaboration on the ground for community mobilization and citizen engagement in the seven (7) villages of Korogocho.

The project's scope will be focused on the area within the St John's Centre that is located Korogocho slum between the villages of Ngomongo and Highridge, as this is where most of the proposed partners who are willing to participate in the project already operate from and provide services within this community.

* 1. **Describe how the intervention will contribute to developing the relationship and collaboration between the partners.**

While this is the first time Architects Without Borders and the Art of Music Foundation will have worked together, the two organizations have had extensive discussions and meetings about how to improve the Korogocho community, particularly the St John's Centre and its activities. The partnership was established in June 2019 as Architect Without Borders visited Arts of Music Foundation in Korogocho to learn, understand and exchange experiences and ideas. This collaboration has the potential to be even more effective by bringing in pre-existing non-profit organizations, civil societies, and local leadership within the community. These potential partners are already working with The Art of Music through regular joint events, activities, and projects.

The partnership will create awareness on the importance of arts in developing communities and empowering youth and children. The intervention will add value in terms of knowledge transfer and competency building for all the partners and project team members involved.

* Describe the experiences, capacities, and resources of participating partners of relevance for the intervention (including the Danish organisation, the local partner(s), as well as other actors). E.g. their experiences with the subject matter concerned, knowledge of the context in which the intervention will take place, or networks and relations they participate in with relevance for the intervention. There is no need to repeat the general information on the partners already given in CISU’s application system, Vores CISU.
* Describe any previous acquaintance or cooperation between the partners, and how these experiences have fed into the development of the proposed intervention.
* Describe the contributions, roles, and responsibilities of the partners and other actors. Justify substantial payroll costs, and if payroll costs are included for the Danish organisation, describe the tasks and why Danish personnel are best positioned to undertake these tasks.
* Describe how the intervention will contribute to developing the relationship and collaboration between the partners.

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

3.1 Describe the composition of the target groups

Our target group can be divided into three target groups.

* Primary target group
  + The local NGO’s operating at St. John community center which are Arts of Music Foundation (AMF) (41 participant), St. John Sports Society (SSS) (10 participants), St. John Justice center (4 participants), and St. John Public Library (5 participants). The total number of participants will be 60 from all organisations combined.
  + The children and youths between 12-25 years engaged in the arts music programme, sports, dance, and other after-school programs organized by AMF and the other local NGO’s operating at St. John. The combined children and youths on these different programs are approximately 500 children and youths
* Secondary target group
  + The citizens and families of Korogocho slum that are connected to St. John including children, youths, women, and elders

3.2 Describe how the target groups will participate in- and benefit from the intervention.

Collectively the target groups will benefit from:

Primary target group

* By participating in the collaboration of the partners (by attending meetings and participating in the planned activities), the local partners will further strengthen their competency and capacity in working with their representative target groups within the community
* The potential partners' cohesion will ensure that the collective objectives will improve the living conditions of the community, as well as provide much needed hope to residents who will see the opportunities brought by the various potential partners and see themselves in a new light of broader horizons.
* The children and youth will have a healthier, cleaner, and more conducive environment for learning, playing, and living.

Secondary Target group

* The overall community can begin the process of telling their story in their own words and changing the narrative for their families and the community.

3.3 Describe the objectives and expected results.

Development Objective: The network among non-profit local organisations working within St. John. community centre is legally formalised, and the network is working collectively and strategically to create a child-friendly, safe, and sustainable environment that would include, a better learning infrastructure focused on music, sports, advocacy, and academics.

Immediate objective 1: A formal network and partnership is further developed among Arts of Music Foundation, Architects without Borders, and the non-profit local organisations working within St. John.

Output 1.1

Increased network capacity for the local non-profit organizations at St. John community centre

Activity 1.1.1

The local partners have monthly partner collaboration meetings on strategy and planning for a joint work plan

Activity 1.1.2

workshops are held with all the partners involved focused on

* + Capacity building of a formal network
  + Forums on joint strategy development
  + Workshop on participatory development and user involvement
    - Focus group on environmental and social challenges

Output 1.2

TheNetwork among Arts of Music Foundation and the other local non-profit organization is formalised and legalised.

Activity 1.2.1

TheConstitution of the network is held, and articles of association agreed on at the assembly

Activity 1.2.2

A legal formalization and agreement of the joined partnership between the church (landowner), Arts of Music Foundation, and the none- profit local organisations working within St. John is formed. The contract is based on matters such as ownership of project and facilities, delegation of responsibilities of maintenance and operation for all the facilities at St. John.

Immediate objective 2: A common strategy and work plan on creating inclusive, safe, inspiring, sustainable, and healthy facilities, and spaces for youth and children is formed by multidisciplinary partnerships through participatory research action approach

Output 2.1

Through a participatory and user involvement workshops a common workplan is created

Activity 2.1.1

A participatory research action workshop is held with key community members, the none-profit organizations within St. John, the administrative body of the community center and the school and kindergarten, and the users (children and youths and their parents)

Output 2.2

The physically and environmental existing conditions at St. john is mapped to highlight the challenges and opportunities at St. john compound

Activity 2.2.1

Architects Without Borders has conducted site and environmental mapping in close collaboration with local architects with guidance from Arts of Music Foundation, and the non-profit organizations within St. John.

Immediate objective 3:

The collaborating local organizations operating at St. John have kick-started the network with activities and adopted and implemented the first stages of the workplan

Output 3.1

Kickstarting the network through activities that engage the larger community to motivate and create awareness of the network.

Activity 3.1.1

AClean-up awareness campaign is organised within and surrounding areas of St. john compound. With the extremely toxic air and water pollution that is prevalent within the community, a regular (monthly) collaborative clean-up exercise is organized and held to encourage awareness of a cleaner environment and a better waste disposal system.

Activity 3.1.2

Arts of Music Foundation, the none-profit organizations within St. John, the church, and key members of the community have organized and held two awareness campaign focused on Community Based Child Protection Strategies.

Output 3.2

Opportunities to implement the first stages of the workplan

Activity 3.2.1

An open budget allocation to support activities formed in the workplan

**3.4 What is the strategy of the intervention**

In reference to the development triangle this intervention focuses on organisational capacity-building by formalising existing networks and partnerships and further strengthen existing active civil society. The strategy is to build strong partnerships through organisational capacity -building activities while introducing and laying the foundation for Advocacy and Strategic deliveries on the next phase of the main overall objective.

The fundamental purpose of the AMF and other prospective local partners has always been to promote hope through music, legal help, sports, and education. By joining forces on a common platform, the potential for greater impact in improving the lives of the community provides a strong strategy of intentional and concerted efforts to encourage dialog on real-life conditions, challenges, and opportunities that can be addressed collectively for greater impact. With the appropriate documented results and discourses resulting from this first phase of collaboration, it is hoped that the second phase will elicit practical solutions for the targeted change and objectives.

**3.5 What are the plans for systematising experiences along the way and at the end of the intervention**

On a broader perspective, the proposed intervention is one of three AWB initiatives, aimed at testing methods, building knowledge, and creating development in complex urban settings. The two other interventions are our current Cisu-financed land-rights project in Maputo (Cisu ref: 18-2159-MI-jan) and the Kinawataka project in Kampala, that we are applying for simultaneously with this intervention. Using different approaches, they are part of our ongoing investigation on how to generate development in urban settings, based on our set of expertise in the relations between human development and the built environment.

AWB issues an internal quarterly report and project evaluation document files that will be filled out and reflected upon during intervention and at the end of the intervention. The quarterly report is used to document experiences gained along the way, noting challenges, experiences, and general monitoring of intervention. The project evaluation is a document whereby the project is evaluated, reflecting upon the quarterly reports and the overall evaluation of the end project. AWB will use a third person from the organisation to conduct and be responsible for the evaluation and reporting.