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| Danish organisation | Dreamtown |
| Title of the intervention | Key to the City II |
| Partner name(s) | House of Arts Association, Yellow World |
| Amount applied for | 2.599.764 |
| Country(ies) | Zimbabwe |
| Period (# of months) | 1.07.2022 – 31.03.2024 (21 month) |

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

**1.1. Main purpose of the intervention**

This is a project for youth by youth. This is one of the most ambitious youth led projects that Dreamtown has been involved in to date. This is a project directly engaging more than 30 youth led organisations – from across Harare and Bulawayo – and more than 7000 young people, from slum communities – around a shared cause. To make strides towards tackling the mental health crisis affecting young people across Zimbabwe. The youth led civil society are increasingly bringing voice to the same concern. Young people’s fundamental wellbeing is under pressure. Within the most marginalised slum communities, we are witnessing an explosive rise of anxiety and depression. More and more youth are engaged in drug abuse. And the numbers of suicides are increasing. If you ask a young person in Zimbabwe, what is up right now they call for action on the mental health crisis. This project is a direct continuation of Dreamtown’s current project being implemented together with House of Arts Association (HAA) in Harare and Yellow World (YW) in Bulawayo. The title of the current project is Key to the City. When we formulated the previous project, the youths would stress, that it is key to the cities of Harare and Bulawayo that we increased young people’s safety and participation. Through this intervention we have learned a lot. Among other issues we have developed a more in depth understanding of what the core safety issues are that young people face – mental health problems. This action – Key to the City II, thus ventures further into the field of safety and participation of young people zooming in on the mental health crisis amongst youth. In the previous Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), there was a big outroar amongst development professionals, that the theme of mental health and wellbeing was left out as a focus area. On a positive note, the Sustainable Development Goals places these issues close at hearth. As advanced in SDG 3, we need to put action behind on good health and wellbeing for all. This is a theme that has only grown in importance during COVID-19. The effects of lock downs, closing of schools, disrupted economies and restricted civic space and heavy-handed governments have put SDG target 3 off track. Especially in Zimbabwe. In this project we are listening to the voice of the youth and placing SDG 3 at the top of the youth led agenda for development.

The intervention has the following objectives:

**1.2. Challenges that will be addressed**

The below presentation of the challenges addressed, are organised so that they follow the development objective and the three specific objectives of the project.

**Overall challenge) The mental health crisis in Zimbabwe:** The overall challenge this project is concerned with is the mental health crisis in Zimbabwe. Mental health problems, also referred to as Common Mental Disorders, have more than doubled in Sub-Saharan Africa in the last 30 years, and it is especially prevalent among adolescents and young adults (Gouda et al., 2019). This trend is also reflected in the Zimbabwean society where depression, drug abuse, and suicides have been on the rise and reached a record high, since 2000. The country had a 14.1% increase in suicide-related deaths compared to 2018 and ranked 34th in the world and fifth in Africa in terms of suicides (Ibid). The mental health crisis is believed to have increased during COVID-19. On a recent ZBC News publishment, Itai Rusike - a public health expert – flagged that, “there is an evident need to expand the availability of a range of mental health services and capacities to manage the spectrum of disorders, stresses, anxieties, and suicidal ideas affecting an increased number of people including the young ones as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic anxieties and stresses”. Local models for explaining distress are common in Zimbabwe, where Shona is the dominant ethnic group and language. "Thinking too much," or *kufungisisa*, is a Shona idiom associated with mental disorders that is used as both a cause and a descriptor of distress. (S. Broström, 2021). Despite an apparent increase in people suffering from common mental disorders and a culturally rooted understanding of the phenomenon, the mental health crisis is met by limited government recognition and action; within the vulnerable communities the awareness of the problem is low, and met by stigma and taboo, and finally there is a lack of access to services for people who need help. Thus, the overall challenge that this project will tackle is the mental health crisis experienced by young people in Zimbabwe, especially amongst those who live in marginalised communities.

**Specific challenge 1) The need for strengthening civil society and engage in government advocacy:**Zimbabwe has had robust policy provisions for addressing mental illness as evidenced by the Mental Health Act of 1996 and Regulations of 1999. The two are supported by the Zimbabwe National Mental Health Policy 2019 – 2023 which includes plans and innovations for improving mental health services in the country and a National Mental Health Strategic Plan 2019-2023. However, while the country has a relevant policy framework, implementation has always remained a challenge seeing how political focus and funding for Mental Health is disproportionately low as compared to other diseases and disorders. On the other hand, there has started to be a massive focus on the challenge amongst youth led organisations working in urban slum communities and amongst individual activist youths. In the current project mental health emerged as the dominant concern amongst the youth who participated in the project’s safety studio activities, which included participatory mappings of safety challenges in slums . The focus has also emerged from other projects. For instance, Dreamtown is leading a project called the Urban Justice project funded through CISU’s “Rebuilding civic space” funding modality. The project includes a range of partners, amongst other PlanBørnefonden, and several CSOs in Zimbabwe including YETT, CATCH, JCT and Plan Zimbabwe. Through this action these national CSOs have continuously emphasised the problems related to mental health within the monthly coordination meetings and through their reporting. Furthermore, through sessions including a broad range of youth groups the message was clear. We need to focus on mental health. All these statements combined, shows how mental health, despite not being a government priority, is a top focus area in civil society, and especially amongst youth led organisations. However, what is also clear is that these youth groups are faced with several constraints in terms of taking efficient action on the problem. These problems include the following: ***i)*** Mental health is quite a technical subject to work on. To have an impact one really needs to understand how the different illnesses work and have a set of technical skills for working with and helping youths who have experienced such problems. For many of these groups they are working on the issue because they are faced with it in their communities. Not because they are experts on it. Thus, there is a need for strengthening these groups technical capacity to work in mental health. ***ii)*** Another challenge relates to the collaboration between ´these groups’, as well as joined government advocacy. While a lot of ad hoc initiatives are popping up, there is a massive need for civil society to organise, and jointly develop strategies for how to engage government through a joint approach focused on the similar advocacy asks. Especially because, by themselves, these organisations are tiny. However, there are so many working on the subject that, if they join forces, they could be heard. Especially linking this very focused advocacy work to the results achieved in the previous project where a productive relationship has been established with important stakeholders such as the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Youth. ***iii)*** Finally, these youth led grassroots organisation have the energy and expertise to facilitate bold events. However, they lack the funding needed for undertaking such events. If they had access to micro grants, while at the same time working in partnership with other youth led organisations, they could make a lot of progressive noise.

**Specific challenge 2: The need for increasing community awareness and action:** Through the previous project and other projects in Zimbabwe, we have developed a good understanding of what the specific challenges are, related to youth and mental health problems within marginalised urban communities and slums. This understanding outlines the specific mental health problems youth in urban slums are faced with: the derived problems mental health problems create in urban slums, and the community’s approach towards mental health problems. These three interconnected problem areas are presented below.

***Specific mental health issues faced by youth in slums:*** One of the major challenges HAA have experienced at first hand through their work with young artist are the effects of *drugs and substance abuse*. For example, in December 2020, a vibrant House of Arts Association artist, Barbridge Munyaradzi Makope, better known as Kiddo Makope, died because of the effects of drug abuse. Saul "SoulJah Love" Musakwa, a well-known Zimbabwean Dancehall artist, died of drug and substance abuse in February 2021. As HAA stresses, the abuse of drugs and substances is becoming very common among Zimbabwe's young artists of various genres. And a major problem is that such artists sing to entice the masses into drug and substance abuse. This is also stressed in a recent study (Matutu, 2019) which highlights that peer pressure, a breakdown in the family support system, a lack of knowledge about the effects of drug abuse and stress are major factors driving substance and drug abuse among young people in Zimbabwe calling for a shift in perspective from looking at the problem from a legal approach, towards the perspective of public health. The study finds that close to 57% of young people use drugs, with marijuana and alcohol being the dominant source (V. Matutu, 2019). In addition to drug and substance abuse youths in the target communities are also witnessing increased levels of *anxiety and depression*. These problems have escalated during the COVID-19 pandemic, during which many youths have lost their only sources of income, schools have closed, and lockdowns have disrupted their social lives and, to a greater extent, their emotional state. During lockdowns many youths have been forced to spent much time with perpetrators making them more vulnerable, while access to services to report or access treatment was nearly impossible.

***Derived problems:*** Drugs and substance abuse is also leading to increased *insecurity and harassment in public spaces* for especially women and young girls. Under the current 'Key to the City' project, HAA held safety workshops in three Harare slum communities. Young people, particularly young women, expressed concerns about accessing public spaces due to inappropriate behaviours displayed by their male counterparts while under the influence of drugs. Many of these young men occupy bridges, corners on popular high-traffic roads, parks, and community playing fields in the communities. When women pass by, they make disparaging remarks; as a result, young women and girls avoid these areas. In some cases, men tore women's clothes or sexually harassed them if they thought they were 'dressed unfit for them.'

***Community response to mental health issues:*** Finally, our work in these urban slum communities shows that mental health problems are met with *taboo, stigma and little support*from the surrounding community. An example is Shugetta, a young prominent DJ in Zimbabwe, admitted that he suffered from severe depression as a result of the COVID-19-induced lockdown effects and considered suicide. Poptain, a rising young afro-pop musician, took to social media to discuss his mental health issues, and instead of receiving help, people implied that he was only looking for attention. The two are concerning case studies highlighting the problem of the lack of seriosity in dealing with mental health issues by the public, responsible officials, and civic society. If the two cases that blew up in the social media had received enough attention, it could have helped many people who are contemplating suicide, as well as those suffering from depression or anxiety, to seek help.

**Specific challenge 3: The need for creating access to services for vulnerable youths:** For over three decades Zimbabwe has suffered from what is referred to as brain drain – skilled people leave the country to work abroad. This is unfortunately also the case in the health sector where very few public health professionals deal with Mental Health illness. In 2016, there were only 5 clinical psychologists in the public sector, 18 psychiatrists, and only 15 of the 150 trained occupational therapists actually practice mental health in Zimbabwe (Kushinga, 2016). This shows the acute need for government to strengthen their political focus and action on mental health. There are simply not enough hands to deal with the amount of challenges faced by people. In addition to this, another problem is access. Even when services do exist, vulnerable people living in marginalised communities are cut off from accessing them. There are many reasons why people do not access services. Many people do not know where to go if they experience a problem; many people can not afford the service, even in the cases where this is limited to paying for transportation; and as discussed above, many simply shy away from talking about their problems due to taboo and stigma. As argued in the section above, there is a need for government to strengthen service delivery. However, while this is the long-term goal that we are working towards, there is also an acute need for increased access to services here and now. And we can not wait for the government. In a project like this, where we will create massive awareness around the problem of mental health, we expect to witness a large increase in young people who will come out and talk about the issues they face. This gives us a responsibility, as project initiators, to be able to support these youths with services. Yet, these are services that the youth groups we are working with are not able to deliver. Therefore in this project we have included national CSOs who are specialised in delivering technical services. These organisations will be linked to the interventions, and be given funding, which will enable them to pick up the cases that will arise in the communities. We acknowledge that this is not a sustainable solution. However, it is a strategic service that is necessary to include while we at the same time work on mobilising government around improved service provision.

**1.3. Extension of a previous intervention**

This project (Key to the City II) is an extension of a project (Key to the City) currently being implemented by Dreamtown, HAA and YW. Key to the City II will start at the same time as Key to the City comes to an end.

**What results have been achieved so far?**

*Community presence:* Both HAA and YW have managed to surpass the targets in terms of mobilizing artists and youth towards the Key to the City project. The establishment of the YW Creative Clubs as well as the Safety Studios by HAA has resulted in intense community presence for both organizations.

*Government collaboration:* Another important outcome was gaining support from key stakeholders including the Government. The Key to the City Festival had such an impact that the Minister of Youth, through their Director of Arts responded and made a press statement acknowledging the great impact intended by the project. This has also led to HAA hosting a City Level Symposium, which attracted the presence of the Deputy Minister of Health. Especially, the Ministry of Health is an important stakeholder in this project, with its focus on mental health.

*New methods tested - Film production for change:* In the previous project, YW embarked on using film production as a method for creating social change. They produced a film called IKASI – meaning The Hood. This movie has created a very strong acknowledgement of YW, which can now be characterized as a leading youth and art organisation in Bulawayo. The movie was developed based on scripts produced by young people in slum communities and focused on the safety challenges young people face in urban slum communities. The movie was produced in partnership with a professional movie production house and all the actors were young aspiring actors from slum communities. Also, the film was both screened in Bulawayo’s main movie theatre and within the target communities through street cinema. The film has won the price for the most Outstanding Short Film in Zimbabwe at the recent National Arts Merit Awards, the most prestigious Awards in Zimbabwe. In this action we are building on these lessons learned and continue to work with movie production for social change.

*Identification of key challenges to address in this action:* Through the Safety Studios, young people were able to identify the key safety challenges in their community and came up with different safety initiatives that were supported by HAA. An important outcome of these safety studios was the focus on mental health. This was emphasized as a major challenge that needs further attention.

**What are (still) the major challenges?**

According to the report that came from the Safety Studios, drugs and substance abuse was the most common factor causing young people to be very violent and threatening the safety of others, especially young women. Due to drug and substance abuse, there are now several mental health problems being witnessed. Also, there is stigma around Mental Health victims resulting in young people committing suicide.

**How the intervention includes new objectives, a new strategic approach or new target group**

*A more focused overall objective:* In the previous intervention the development objective was broad and focused on the participation and safety of young people in slums. Through the previous interventions we have explored a range of areas related to what constitutes the major safety issues for young people, through an exploratory approach including safety mappings in communities, art engagements with youths and dialogues with local authorities. A key theme that has grown out of the previous intervention is the mental health challenges facing youth as a major safety issue in urban slums that need to be addressed. Thus, in this intervention we are going on step deeper, moving from a broad focus on safety, towards a more in-depth focus on young people’s mental health. Thus, the new intervention adopts a new development objective.

*A more ambitious strategic approach:*Furthermore, this intervention also applies a new strategic approach. In the previous intervention we had an explicit focus on working with the art sector. In this intervention, we are still working with the art sector, however, we have also included several other target groups of young people. These include a strong network of youth led CBOs working on mental health issues, sport clubs, as well as national CSOs providing services on mental health issues. In this way we are building on the lessons learned from the previous intervention, while applying a far more ambitious strategic approach in terms of organising a larger and more diverse network of youth led organisations.

*The same core target group – though larger:*While the overall objective and strategic approach has been refined, we still focus on the same core target group, which is young people living in urban slums. However, the target group of this intervention is much larger. From previously working in 4 communities, the broader network of youth groups in this intervention will allow us to target 13 vulnerable slum communities and therethrough reach a much larger target group.

**1.3. Context of the intervention**

**Zimbabwe as a stable and fragile context** We are considering the context of this project to be stable, however, we are aware that during this project the national elections will take place, which is expected to increase instability and violence in Zimbabwe. From previous elections we have seen how political elites mobilise vulnerable youth from slum communities for their political campaigns. These are often youths who are embedded in drug abuse and already engaged in criminal activity. Therefore, this project is highly relevant for the national elections. And we will make sure to link our activities to the election process, so that the community engagement and government advocacy can be used strategically to both support the facilitation of safer elections and trying to protect at risk youths from being mobilised. In the following, we are highlighting some of the key contextual conditions relevant for the project’s focus, its target groups and goals.

**Country profile:** Zimbabwe is located in Southern Africa and is bordered by South Africa, Mozambique, Botswana, and Zambia. The tropical climate of the landlocked country is complemented by high plateaus and mountains in the east. There are eight rural provinces and two metropolitan provinces, with 63 districts and 1200 wards in each. The service sector (65.8 percent) accounts for the majority of Zimbabwe's economy, followed by industry (22.2 percent) and agriculture (12 percent). Zimbabwe's informal economy accounts for 60% of total income, while formal unemployment is extremely high. (World Health Organization, 2020). Poverty is endemic in Zimbabwe, with an estimated 70% of the population living below the poverty datum line and 34% living in extreme poverty. Fuel and electricity shortages, drought, and climate-related events have all had a significant impact on the agriculture sector and inflation rates in recent years. Zimbabwe's health system, which was once one of the most robust in the region, has suffered reduced government spending. Zimbabwe has also experienced high workforce emigration, human rights violations, years of austerity policies, economic decline, and the 2008 hyperinflation crisis. After nearly 40 years in power, President Robert Mugabe was forced to resign in 2017. (World Health Organization, 2020). In 2017, President Mugabe was succeeded by his right-hand man President Emmerson D. Mnangagwa who through his Ministry of Finance has increased the austerity measures that have broadened the equality gap between the rich and the poor. The salaries of civil servants have been reduced from an average of $600 USD per month to $200 USD per month. Increased taxes, policy inconsistency and hyper-inflation has resulted in the rising cost of living, which has pushed Zimbabweans into abject poverty, especially young people who are without secure employment ever since the economic meltdown of 2008.

**Youth in Zimbabwe:** In Zimbabwe, young people are regarded as persons between the ages of 15 to 35 years (Zimbabwe Constitution, 2013). Zimbabwe is regarded as a youthful nation with people under 35 years constituting 67.7% of the estimated 15 million population. Youth in Zimbabwe face a variety of challenges, including unemployment, unaffordable education, and a lack of access to health care because of extreme poverty, forced mobility (migration) because of limited opportunities, child marriages, and sexual abuse of young women, among others. Youths in Zimbabwe are victims of poor governance, corruption, and, to a lesser extent, HIV and Aids, as well as high drug use (drug abuse). According to independent researchers, the general unemployment rate is more than 80%, with many young graduates turning to vend and cross-border trade to supplement their incomes outside of the mainstream economy. As a result, Zimbabwean youths are vulnerable to abuse and manipulation, particularly by politicians, with some of them being used to commit violence during election time. (Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission, n.d.)

**Target slum communities:** According to the World Bank, it is estimated that more than 1 out of 3 Zimbabweans live in urban slum areas [[1]](#footnote-2). In Zimbabwe, slum communities have emerged rapidly in the urban areas due to, among other factors, high levels of rural to urban migration. The slum communities are characterized by high unemployment rates, violence, high crime rates, lack of access to clean water, and insecurity of land tenure. The project targets slum communities across Bulawayo and Harare. These communities include many very creative youths and many youth groups. At the same time these communities face safety issues include drug abuse due to unemployment; high mugging and robbery rates, and a high number of rape cases and sexual harassment of girls in public places, with few people intervening when abuse takes place. The project target 13 vulnerable urban communities. In Harare the project targets: Hatcliffe, Mbare, Hopely, Epworth, Chitungwiza, Waren Park, Dzivarasekwa. In Bulawayo the project targets: Nketa, Pumula, Nkulumane, Mpopoma, Mzilikazi and Khumalo

**1.4. Strengthening of civil society organising to advance social justice**

This is one of Dreamtown’s most ambitious projects to date, with regards to strengthening civil society organisation, through direct partnerships with youth led organisations. Through this intervention a large network of youth led organisations in Zimbabwe working on mental health will be established. In so doing more than 30 youth led organisations from Harare and Bulawayo will be directly engaged through the intervention. These organisations include CBOs, sports clubs and art groups. These organisations will receive training, share experiences, and engage in joint advocacy. In addition, the intervention links with two national CSOs who are provides technical services related to mental health. By working through such a vast network of organisations, it is the ambition of strengthening social justice for vulnerable youth, who have a right to receive support and help.

**1.5. Response to climate- and environmental conditions**

In this intervention we have kept the number of flights to a minimum of 2 trips in the budget. Since Dreamtown is managing a larger project portfolio I Zimbabwe, we can monitor across project when we are in Zimbabwe, and therethrough keep travels to a minimum.

2. The partnership/collaborators (our starting point)

2.1. Partners’ experiences, capacities and resources, and contributions, roles and responsibilities

**Dreamtown**

***Experiences, capacities, and resources:*** Dreamtown is a Danish NGO that works for the wellbeing of young people in cities, focusing on slum communities in fragile urban settings. A key focus in Dreamtown’s mission is to transform fragile urban areas into safe, green, and creative spaces together with young people. Dreamtown currently runs projects across Zimbabwe, Sierra Leone, Uganda, and Kenya. In all Dreamtown’s projects, including this project, there is an explicit and dominant focus on strengthening the organisational capacity and collaboration of youth-led civil society groups, and supporting these groups to undertake direct action and change in their communities. Thus, Dreamtown has developed a strong set of learning and best practices that helps guide and ensure the quality of the projects that we engage in. This includes different types of micro grant mechanisms to maximise ownership and empowerment among youth- and community-led civil society structures. Dreamtown’s secretariat is composed of 8 people who run the organisation on a daily basis. The secretariat is comprised of: Rasmus Bering, CEO; Nina Ottosen, Head of Programmes; Thomas Chandler, Head of Finance and Administration; Simon Sticker, Head of Communication and Stories; Jakob Falk, Head of Research and Learning; Stine Kronsted, Urban Design Lead; Benedicte Bertelsen, Youth Engagement Lead; and Nina Albertsen, Strategic Partnership Lead. In addition to the paid and professional secretariat, the board, a group of volunteers and one student intern also support the work of Dreamtown. Thus, during the past few years, Dreamtown has grown from being a smaller organisation run by volunteers, to becoming a professional NGO with a strong Finance-, Programme- and Communication Department who work closely together around quality programme implementation, effective documentation, and inspiring communication of results. Dreamtown has recently finalised a Capacity Assessment through CISU, in preparation of applying for a CISU Programme Agreement in 2023. The Capacity Assessment process has been finalised and the final report and Management Response can be shared upon request. In relevance to this project, Dreamtown’s team has people with strong knowledge about Zimbabwe and the context of young people living urban communities, and a very close working relationship with our colleagues in HAA and YW, as well as the technical service providers we will cooperate with, which are JCT and CATCH.

***Contributions, roles, and responsibilities:***Dreamtown is responsible for the overall management of the project, which includes monitoring project progress, disbursement of funds, and management of the grant in relation to CISU.From Dreamtown, Jakob Falk will be lead on the project. In addition to being lead on Dreamtown’s project portfolio in Zimbabwe, Jakob is also Dreamtown’s Head of Research and Learning. In this capacity he will play a direct role in regard to developing the project’s monitoring framework, facilitating learning activities and coordinating the end of project external evaluation. In addition, Thomas Chandler, Dreamtown’s Head of Finance and Administration, will play a key role in the financial management of the project as well as developing the micro grant scheme that cuts across specific objective 1 and 2.

***Justification of payroll costs:*** A total of 599 hours are allocated towards the necessary Partner Activities and Project Monitoring. These hours will cover 2 Dreamtown visit to Zimbabwe (monitoring activities), hours for technical support for activities, hours for Dreamtown’s Head of Research and Learning to support cross-cutting learning and documentation, and hours for Dreamtown’s head of Finance and Administration to undertake financial monitoring of the project. In addition, a total of 446 hours is allocated for Partner Project Support Costs. These costs cover a fair share of the following support costs during the project period:  12% of Dreamtown’s Head of Finance and Administration salary (supporting general administrative and financial duties); 3.7% of Dreamtown’s CEO’s salary (covering organisational management duties); 3.7% of Dreamtown’s Head of Programmes’ salary (covering partnership development duties) and 3.7% of Dreamtown’s Head of Research and Learning’s yearly salary (covering cross cutting learning and documentation duties).

**House of Arts Association**

***Experiences, capacities, and resources:***House of Arts Association (HAA) is a Zimbabwean youth led organisation that focuses on promoting artistic activities and at the same time using art as a tool for development. Their work is echoed in their motto *Reshaping communities through arts*. The core team managing the activities of HAAis comprised of a dedicated team of young artists and activists from Hatcliffe, which is one of the project’s target communities. Coming from the slums, they carry a great deal of legitimacy amongst vulnerable young people living within the poorest areas in Harare. HAA has a board of 7 people; 6 paid staff; and a group of 10 volunteers who manage the daily operations of the organisation. In addition, HAA has 109 members, most of whom are young people (including many artists) from slums across Harare. In addition to these individual members 5 youth groups are also members of HAA. HAA engages in a wide range of art and development activities. These include hosting artistic festivals, open mic sessions, road shows, art installations in slums, capacity building of youths and artists, hosting exhibitions, and disseminating information through arts and music. HAA is an active partner to the Ministry of Youths, Arts and Culture where various artists from the association take part in annual Youth Festivals organised by the Ministry. In terms of advocacy, HAA has been actively involved in the fight to end gender-based violence, e.g. in a partnership with the National AIDS Council. HAA also partnered with Ministry of Women Affairs, Gender and Empowerment on the campaign ‘We are girls and brides’. Finally, HAA has played a leading role in developing a Safe Community Network for youth (in partnership with Plan International Zimbabwe and Junior Achievement Zimbabwe), which comprises youth groups from across some of the most vulnerable slum communities in Harare. All these activities combined mean that HAA are viewed as a leading youth organisation working on arts, and their staff and volunteers are perceived as active citizens amongst local youth and duty bearers, who contribute positively to development beyond the boundaries of culture and arts.

***Contributions, roles, and responsibilities:***HAA is the project’s lead local partner in Zimbabwe. This implies that all funding will be sent to HAA. HAA will disburse funds to YW on a quarterly basis and undertake regular monitoring of YW activities and financial spending and provide on-going mentoring and capacity building support to the organisation throughout the intervention. HAA has the responsibility to collect, develop and submit quarterly narrative and financial reports to Dreamtown. HAA is also lead on the end of project external evaluation and local audit. Finally, HAA has the responsibly to coordinate all activities in Harare.

**Yellow World (YW)**

***Experiences, capacities, and resources:***YW is a network of young artists from Bulawayo. Since 2018, YW has been working on an informal basis, but is now registered as a formal association with the National Arts Council of Zimbabwe. YW has 300 members in their network who actively participate in their activities, most of whom are artists. Although YW has been operating on an informal basis, the organisation has been actively involved in a range of activities combining arts and development. Of specific relevance to this intervention the organisation has participated in the ‘We are girls not brides’ campaign focused on ending child marriage; participated in the Ministry of Youth’s annual youth festivals; undertaken advocacy performances at schools; and participated in development programmes with INGO. Dreamtown and YW has collaborated on two previous projects, through which YW has strengthened their organisational systems and practices.

***Contributions, roles, and responsibilities:***YW holds the responsibility to send inputs to the narrative and financial reports compiled by HAA.YW coordinating all the activities in Bulawayo, but the budget responsibility lies with HAA who will support YW in the financial management of their activities and will compile financial reports of all project activities to Dreamtown.

**Justification of the project’s overall budget and partner payroll costs**

This is the largest project, in terms of budget, that we have requested to date for our partnership with HAA and YW. The reasons why we are requesting a significant larger budget, compared to the current project, are based on the following considerations. ***i)*** The project takes places within 13 slum communities across Harare and Bulawayo and engage a direct target group of 7.477 youth. This is a significantly larger geographical reach and target group in the previous project. ***ii)*** In this intervention we will work in partnership with more than 30 youth led organisations (including CBOs, art groups and sports clubs) and two national CSOs (CATCH and JCT). This is a very large partner set up. A total of DKK 424.700 from the budget will be distributed directly (through the project’s micro grant mechanism) to these organisations enabling them to implement activities directly on the ground within the target communities. ***iii)*** The project includes and end of project external evaluation which also increases the budget. ***iv)*** Finally, we have included a larger staffing set up for both HAA and YW, than on previous projects. In a project like this, where the strategy rests on the coordination, action, and collaboration, of a very large network of youth led organisations, it is necessary for both HAA and YW to have a strong HR set up in place that can effectively manage the project.

**2.2. Experiences, capacities, and resources of other actors**

**Technical service providers:** In addition to HAA and YW, and the network of diverse youth led organisations, the project also engaged two strategic service providers as part of specific objective 3. These are Justice for Children (JCT) and Care at the Core of Humanity (CATCH). Dreamtown currently collaborates with these two organizations on other CISU funded projects. Both organizations are national CSO, with core expertise on psychosocial counselling and legal aid. In the budget a lump sum for each of these organizations has been included. Each organization will receive USD 15.000. Once the project starts a MoU will be developed with each of these organizations outlining their area of responsibility. Overall, their funding will go directly towards ensuring that vulnerable youths, suffering from mental health problems can get the support they need. We see a need for keeping these funds flexible, which will enable the partners to respond to the specific cases that might arise. For this reason, we are yet to break down their budgets.

**2.3. Previous cooperation between the partners**

**Cooperation between Dreamtown and HAA**: Dreamtown and HAA have collaborated on two previous CISU projects and 2 projects funded through Roskilde Festival Foundation. In Dreamtown, we are extremely proud of the development that HAA has undergone in recent years – from being a small and informal youth movement, mainly being conceived as a target group rather than development partner amongst international NGOs, towards becoming an extremely powerful youth-led organisation, able to coordinate complex activities for large number of people and facilitate sensitive dialogues and discussion with government duty bearers. In Dreamtown, we have from the very beginning of the collaboration had a strong focus on supporting HAA to develop a solid organisational foundation, enabling the organisation to manage grants gradually increasing in size. Examples of the organisational capacity building activities undertaken with HAA include Trainings conducted on ground by Dreamtown’s Head of Finance and Administration; hiring of a local consultant to provide HAA on-going and on-demand mentoring and technical support on administration and financial management and developing a close collaboration between HAA and the local audit firm who has undertaken various trainings for HAA in financial management and bookkeeping. Today, HAA has a solid set up of financial and administration policies in place, they are using Quick Books to do their bookkeeping and they are developing top notch narrative and financial reports. All in all, HAA is ready to manage a grant of the size in this project.

**Cooperation between Dreamtown and YW:** Dreamtown and YWhave collaborated on two projects, funded through CISU. This included the current Key to the City project, and a new – small intervention project (below DKK 100.000), called Her Story, focused on the empowerment of young women in the art industry. *Her Story* is the first grant that YW is managing on their own. In addition to the objective of empowering young women, this project is design to support YW to gradually build up their financial management capacity. YW is on a good track and has engaged qualified personnel who are skilled in administration and finance. Thus, we also feel confident in increasing their level of funding, while still providing strong support through Dreamtown capacity building and HAA mentoring and monitoring.

**Cooperation between HAA and YW**. HAA and YW have known each other for a long time. Since YW started HAA has taken on a strong mentoring role helping the organisation to formalize and build their structures, based on HAA’s own experiences. It was also HAA that introduced YW to Dreamtown, since HAA saw an inspiring potential in the work done by YW. This also demonstrates HAAs organisational being. Rather than approaching other youth-led organisations as competitors, they have an ear to the ground, and take a big pride in spotting the new talents in civil society coming up, and subsequently trying to create opportunities for the new and inspiring youth-led grassroots.

**Most important learning from past cooperation**: There is a lot of important learning that can be generated from the partnership between Dreamtown, HAA and YW. One major learning focuses on the capacity of youth-led civil society in Zimbabwe. Compared to other places where Dreamtown works, the young generation of change makers in Zimbabwe, does not only possess brilliant and innovative ideas for creating change. They also have the necessary global outlook and core skills needed for developing strong organisations. Another learning is both HAA’s and YW’s approach towards using art as a tool for development. HAA is very strong on using music, and YW is building a niche around working through film and cinema. Combined, these approaches have proved extremely efficient in engaging and mobilising large number of young people from marginalised urban communities. Furthermore, the art-activist approach has also generated strong results with regards to government advocacy. For some reason art is not viewed as very political in Zimbabwe. This means that through e.g. the facilitation of music festival or street cinema tour, YW and HAA have been able to debate sensitive and political issues, while still maintaining a good relationship with the local authorities. Our approach towards working on advocacy and government engagement is based on networking and collaboration rather than protest and resistance. While this might not sound über activist, it works, and is highly necessary in a repressive state like Zimbabwe where you can lose your NGO registration overnight, be harassed by the police or even put in jail if you cross the government.

**2.4. Strengthening the collaboration between the partners and their relations to other actors**

**The partners:** There already exists a strong collaboration between the partners. To strengthen this collaboration, we will focus on having more physical meetings. This both entails meetings between HAA and YW and between Dreamtown and the two partners, which have been limited in the last year due to COVID-19. In addition, emphasis will be given towards team building activities where the youths from the different organizations get to forge direct and personal bonds that move beyond the actual project. From the past project we have seen how such team building activities can help minimize conflict and misunderstanding.

**Government actors:** Through this action YW and HAA will continue to strengthen their relationship with a range of government duty bearers. These incudes the Ministry of Youth; the Ministry of Health and health service providers; the Ministry of Local Government; the Department of Social Services; and the City Council. Dreamtown will also continue to strengthen our collaboration with relevant government stakeholders. During each visit to Zimbabwe, we have meetings with representatives from national and local government. In Zimbabwe it is important to have good relationships at both levels, since in Zimbabwe the national government represents the ruling ZANU PF party, and the local authorities often represent the MDC opposition party. It is thus important to have good standing within both political arenas.

**Youth led civil society:** As mentioned above, this project is both Dreamtown, HAA and YW’s most ambitious project to date in terms of organizing youth-led civil society in Zimbabwe around a common cause. As detailed in the target group table below, 33 youth led groups, cutting across CBOs, art groups and sport teams, will be engaged. These are all groups that YW and HAA know. However, it is the first time that all these groups will work together on the same project, towards a joint goal. A major goal is therefore to forge productive relations within this vast network of organisations. However, we are already off to a good start. In the development of this proposal, a lot of time and energy has gone into identifying relevant organisations to work with, ensuring that the organizations understood the objective of the intervention and testing whether the organizations were motivated to participate. Thus, a thorough vetting process has already taken place in terms of ensuring that the right organisations are on board. Once the project kicks off, the major goal is to ensure that a good culture of collaboration is established.

3. Target groups, objectives, strategy, and expected results (our intervention)

3.1. Composition, participation, and benefit of the target groups

In the table below is presented an overview of the direct and the indirect target groups. The direct target group focuses on the different groups of young people who will be directly engaged through the action, in one way or the other. In this project, the youth groups that we are working with, are both partners as well as target groups in the sense that these groups are working for change, yet, at the same time they also come from marginalised slum communities, and all have witness mental health problems in their lives first hand.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Primary** | **Engagement level** | **Harare** | **Bulawayo** | **Participation** | **Benefits from project** |
| **2 Lead partners** | **Lead** | **House of Arts Association**  ***Total numbers = 7 (2 male / 5 female)*** | **Yellow World**  ***Total numbers = 6 (male 2/4 female)*** | Coordinates activities in Bulawayo and Harare  Receives on-going capacity building support from Dreamtown | Strengthened legitimacy, and position as leading youth led organisations in Zimbabwe |
| **13 Youth led CBOs** | **Own** | Second Chance Foundation; For Youth by Youth; Ndinewe Foundation; Pahukama Youth Oryx Foundation; Champions of Change; New Generation; Shepherds Trust; Youth Decide Zimbabwe, Ignite Youth Organisation,  ***Total numbers = 80 (40 male /40 female)*** | Youth Artist development school; Home of Arts; Stunts lavsky; Bigger than Hiphop; Live Wires Connext  ***Total numbers = 50 (25 male/ 25 female)*** | Participates in the K2C Academy (result 1.1) and leads government advocacy activities (Result 1.2) | Improved mental health amongst youth leaders; increased capacity, participation, network, and funding amongst youth led organisations |
| **14 Art groups** | **Contributes** | Young Games Entertainment: Nikromat, Simukaupenye Integrated Youth Academy, Youth Decide Zimbabwe,  Earground, Magamba Network; 825 HUB; Calligraph  ***Total numbers = 44 (28 male /16 female)*** | Public Figures; Youth for Innovation Trust; Mega Base Records; Safe a life, safe a Soul, Magamba Network  ***Total numbers = 20 (11 male / 9 female)*** | Facilitates art-based community engagement activities (Result 2.1) | Improved mental health and wellbeing within art sector; improved brand of art sector as progressive role models; increased public awareness on work of art groups |
| **4 Sports clubs** | **Contributes** | Basket Hounds; New Vision; H-Rainbow; Beacon of Hope Soccer Academy  ***Total numbers = 60 (20 male/ 40 female)*** | Sporting Chance Bulawayo  ***Total numbers = 20 (13 male / 7 female)*** | Facilitates sports-based community engagement activities (Result 2.2) | Improved mental health and wellbeing within sport sector; increased membership in sport clubs |
| **Vulnerable Youth with mental health problems** | **Joins** | ***Total numbers = 400 (200 male/ 200 female)*** | ***Total numbers = 300 (150 male/ 150 female)*** | Receives mental health support from service providers (result 3.1. + 3.2.) | Improved mental health and wellbeing of youth |
| **Youth in the target communities at large participating in activities** | **Follows** | ***Total numbers = 7 communities x 500 people = 35000*** | ***Total numbers = 6 communities x 500 people = 3000*** | Participates in the art and sport-based community engagement activities (Result 2.1. and 2.2.) | Increased awareness on mental health; knowledge on where to go with mental health problems |
| **Total** | **Total direct target group = 7.477 youths** | | | | |
| **Secondary** | **Description** | | | **Participation** | |
| **Gov. Min.** | Min. of Youth, Min. of Health, Min. of Social Welfare and Local Government, Min. of Women Affairs. | | | Target through advocacy actions facilitated by the network of youth led CBOs (Result 1.1 + 1.2.) | |
| **Gov. Service providers** | Harare: Adult Rape Clinic, Mandipa Hope, Harare Hospital, Arundel Clinic, Tariro Rehabilitation Centre  Bulawayo: Mpilo Hospital, NSSA Rehabilitaion Centre | | | Participates in the projects referral network and provides services for vulnerable youth (Result 3.1) | |
| **NGO service providers** | CATCH, JCT | | | Support to training academy (result 1.1) and provision of psychosocial support and legal aid services (Result 3.1) | |
| **Others** | National Arts Council of Zimbabwe, Zimbabwe Youth Council, City Councils, UN-Woman, WHO | | | General collaboration and support to community-based activities and government advocacy initiatives | |

3.2. Strategy for engaging the target groups

As depicted in the table above, the different types of youth target groups are expected to be engaged at various levels in the project. To indicate what level of engagement we expect from each group, we have included a dimension called Engagement level. This dimension is inspired by CISU’s engagement pyramid, presented in CISU’s guidelines for engagement projects in Denmark. Even though these guidelines are targeting a Danish audience, we have found much use in employing this model for defining target groups in our development projects as well. Overall, the project is based on a cascading model. At the heart of the intervention, we find the projects lead partners, HAA and YW. HAA is responsible for engagement in Harare and YW is responsible for engagement in Bulawayo. HAA and YW will both engage a network of art groups and sport clubs. These groups have already been identified and engaged during the process of developing this application. Each of these groups are then responsible for cascading the project across the communities where they work, and therethrough reach an even larger target group. Since the project is mobilising such a large network of youth led organisations, we will be able to reach young people living within 13 marginalised slum communities across Harare and Bulawayo. Through art campaigns and sport events these groups are expected to reach at least 500 individual youths in each of the 13 target communities. It is worth mentioning that this is a modest target number.

**3.3. Target groups and relevant actors’ participation in the development of the intervention**

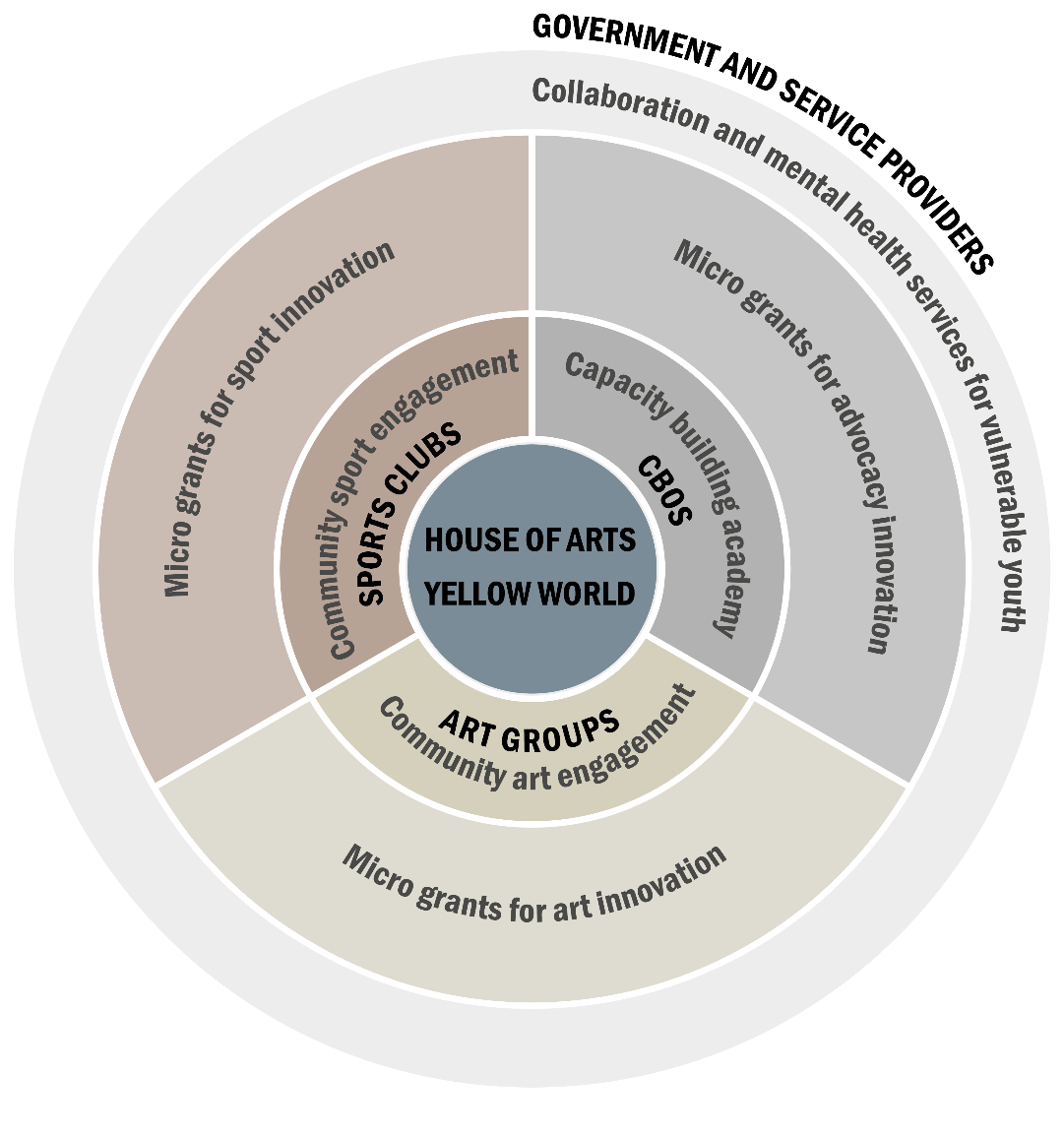
This project is by and large defined by its direct target group – young people living in slum communities. First, the projects focus on mental health has grown directly out of the current project. During the safety studios facilitated by HAA, most participants mentioned challenges, such as drug abuse, anxiety, depression, and suicide, as the major problems faced by young people. In addition, youth led organisations, both from the current project with HAA and YW, as well as other projects that Dreamtown works on in Zimbabwe, have voiced their concern about mental health issues. Thus, while youth led civil society in Zimbabwe work on a range of different issues, they are increasingly having a shared focus on young people’s wellbeing. In addition to defining the main problem area of the project, the target group has also given direct inputs on how to understand and approach mental health in this specific intervention. During the process of developing this proposal several co-design workshops have been facilitated with YW and HAA. In addition, YW and HAA have both had dialogues with other youth led organisations and submitted questionnaires to develop a deeper insight into what the key challenges where and how to best design the project.

**3.4. Partners’ legitimacy to act as champions of the target groups’ cause**

This project is by youth for youth. The leading partners of this project are youth led organisations coming directly from slum communities. As such, they are both partners and part of the direct target group. Since these organisations are run by youths, and have their local anchorage within slum communities, they represent a strong legitimacy to act as a champion of the target group’s cause.

**3.5. Strategy and activities of the intervention**

This project sets out to improve the mental health of young people living in vulnerable slum communities. The strategy of the intervention is focused on mobilising a very large network of different types of youth led organisations. This will enable us to have wide geographical reach, by working with organisations from across 13 different slum communities. In addition, by working with different types of youth led organisations, the intervention is also designed to engage different types of target groups and stakeholders. The intervention engages youth led CBOs. These are organisations working for societal change and development, and who have an interest in engaging government through advocacy. At the same time, the project involves both art groups and sport clubs. These actors are important in various ways. On the one hand, they represent the role models that young people look up to. To tackle a subject that is encapsulated by stigma and taboo, experience shows the importance of working with people who have the ear of the youth. In addition, through sports and art events we can facilitate activities that in very cost-effective ways can reach many youths. The strategy of this approach is quite simple. While we host the different art and sport campaigns, we use the opportunity to engage the youths in dialogues around what mental health problems are, and what one can do to seek help. At the same time, we are also mindful of the fact that by creating awareness on the issues, we will create an increase in demand for services. While the project is focused on advocating government to increase service delivery, we know this will be a lengthier process. Thus, we are also engaging strategic service providers who can assist youths who need support right now.

The projects strategy is depicted in the model below. As the model shows HAA and YW are at the centre of the project’s strategy. They have the responsibility to mobilise networks of different types of youth organisations including youth led CBOs, sport clubs, and art groups. Once these groups are mobilised, they will be engaged through different types of activities. The youth led CBOs will be involved in an ambitious training academy where they will strengthen their organisational capacity, and subsequently be supported to engage in government advocacy activities. These advocacy activities will both include broad based activities where all groups collectively participate, targeting selected government agencies at city and national level, as well as more individual advocacy projects funded through micro grants. For the sports clubs and the art groups the strategy is similar. Both groups will participate in large and strategic events in the target communities coordinated by HAA and YW, and at the same time receive micro grants for their own sports and art innovation projects addressing mental health. The youths who are reached across these initiatives, who needs support that is outside the technical scope of the youth led organisations, will be linked with professional service providers.

***Youth action grants:*** One of the major activities that cuts across both the youth led CBOs, art groups, and sports clubs are micro grants for innovative initiatives undertaken directly by the individual groups. Since this is a central part of both the intervention and the budget, a more detailed explanation and justification of the approach is presented in the following. Dreamtown has vast experience in working through micro grants mechanisms as one of our key approaches to supporting youth-led urban development. Projects that are *for youth* is not enough. We need projects that are *by youth*. By trusting youth groups with the responsibility of managing their own funds and empowering them to take leadership over the process of planning and implementing projects, we ensure that the youth are directly in charge. While Dreamtown’s Head of Finance and Administration, plays a strong role in setting up the micro grant scheme, which includes developing clear selection criteria as well as financial monitoring and reporting processes, the lead implementing partners (HAA and YW in this project) play a key role in mentoring and monitoring the groups who receive a grant. They make sure youth groups’ suggestive initiatives are in line with the criteria of the micro granting mechanism and have realistic budgets, and they guide them to spend the funds effectively to maximise impact. By giving the youth groups capacity building support within the areas of financial- and project management, they grow from the experience and gain knowledge and skills that they can use in future projects, and in life in general. This is where the micro-grant becomes an investment, which lasts much longer than any project.  In addition, the value that lies in the trust shown to the youth by handing over the responsibility of the funding helps build their confidence, which is much needed in societal contexts where youths are marginalised and stigmatised as irresponsible. The micro grants approach also speaks to the localisation of resources by putting funds as close to the right holders as possible. In our experience, this way of doing things is also what gives us the most bang for the buck. And finally, in previous project we have seen how small grants, can work as seed funding for larger initiatives. In several projects, the youth groups have used the grants they have received as a momentum for mobilising even more resources within their local communities.

**Cross cutting activities**

Following activities will be implemented which cuts cutting across the projects three specific objectives.

Activity 0.1.1. Coordination and learning meetings between HAA and YW: To ensure smooth collaboration, and ongoing learning, we will facilitate coordination and learning meetings at the start, middle and end of the project. In addition to YW and HAA, Dreamtown will take a leading role in these meetings, to ensure that the project is on track and that key challenges and success stories are documented. Activity 0.1.2. Start-up meetings with government authorities in Harar and Bulawayo: In Zimbabwe is virtually impossible to undertake any actions without the buy in of government stakeholders. And what is key to their productive participation is for them to be engaged from the very beginning. Thus, one of the first activities in the project, will be to engage city level authorities from both Harare and Bulawayo. Activity 0.1.3. Support to HAA’s Arts Space in Hatcliffe: Through the advocacy victories of previous CISU project, and through the financial support of Roskilde Festival for construction, Dreamtown and HAA have managed to secure and develop a very big plot of land in Hatcliffe community, which is the home base of HAA. Currently we are finalising the development of an inspiring artistic space for young people. The space includes a stage for performances, a café, offices and workshop rooms, a dance and art studio, a workshop and conference room as well as toilets and outdoor areas. Getting access to land, for young people in a country like Zimbabwe, is a massive achievement. In this project we will utilise the art space, to establish the training academy for the youth led CBOs in Harare. While all the buildings have already been erected, we will use this project to undertake further upgrades that are relevant for the activities undertaken, such as getting furniture for the training academy and develop the outside areas to make it nice, relaxing, and inclusive for youth who suffer from mental illnesses. The budget for this activity is currently placed as a lumpsum in the budget. Once the project start, we will make a more detailed assessment of what specifics elements are needed. Activity 0.1.4. HAA monitoring in Bulawayo: Since HAA is the lead partner in Zimbabwe, they are required to undertake frequent programmatic and financial monitoring of project activities in Bulawayo. Activity 0.1.5. Network and Capacity building visit in Denmark for HAA and Yellow World: Dreamtown has worked together with HAA and YW for several years. We are however yet to invite the partners to visit Denmark. We believe that this an important pillar in a strong and equal partnership. The focus of the visit in Denmark will be to strengthen the capacity and the future sustainability of both organisations, by undertaking visits to several interesting partners in Denmark, that HAA and YW can learn from, and partners, who might be interested in supporting their work.

**Specific objective 1: Strengthened capacity of youth led organisations to engage in mental health action and advocacy**

***Result 1.1. focus on strengthening the capacity of youth led CBOs*** through the facilitation of the Key to the City training academy. The academy will consist of the following activities: Activity 1.1.1. Training of youth led CBOs in Mental Health and psychosocial support: The module will give the participants a broad introduction into the field of mental health including an overview of causes and effects, and how to intervene in cases. In terms of psychosocial support, the module will focus on knowledge and skills in offering psychosocial and counselling to young people. This module will be facilitated by technical service providers working on mental health. Activity 1.1.2. Training of youth groups in internal governance, resource mobilization, financial management and entrepreneurship: This module focuses on strengthening the organisational sustainability of the CBOs. The course will be facilitated by an external expert from the organisational development field as well as inputs form Dreamtown. Activity 1.1.3. Training of youth groups in Leadership, Advocacy and Active Citizenship: The module will focus on building leadership, civic engagement, advocacy, and active citizenship skills. The participants will gain skills to advocate for an enabling policy framework that will enable prioritization and funding by Government. The course will include experts on advocacy in a Zimbabwe context and visits by government representatives.

***Result 2 focuses on supporting youth led CBOs to engage government through advocacy and contains the following activities:*** Activity 1.2.1. City level Alliance meetings:City level alliance meetings are platforms where youths interact with citywide stakeholders who are relevant in tackling mental health concerns at the city level. The alliance will come up with initiatives that will assist in the creation of an enabling policy environment that would encourage the government to prioritize significant budget increases and employ more mental health personnel in public institutions.Activity 1.2.2. Micro grants for CBO innovation mental health advocacy initiatives:In addition to the city level advocacy initiatives, each CBO will receive funds to undertake more advocacy initiatives that are targeted at the local level where they operate. In addition to enhancing the advocacy scale of the project, these funds will work as an action learning process through which the CBOs get hand on experience with planning, budgeting, and implementing advocacy initiative. This is an important learning in terms of the CBOs ability to undertake other initiatives in the future. An example of a youth led CBO initiatives receiving funding could be, for youth groups to conduct dialogues at the local level with relevant authorities and stakeholders addressing the issues of mental health.

**Specific objective 2: Strengthened community awareness and action on mental health in vulnerable urban communities**

***Result 2.1 focuses on creating awareness on mental health through art*** and includes the following activities: Activity 2.1.1. Mental Health Artivism Boot camps: The boot camp focuses on building the capacity of art groups on mental health and fosters productive relationships and networks between art sector organisations. Activity 2.1.2 Artistic productions:Production of artistic productions, like movies, music and music videos, murals etc. These will be embedded with the message of raising awareness about mental health encouraging the masses to be tolerant and the affected to speak up. Activity 2.1.3 Open Mic Mental Health and Exhale Sessions:The open mic sessions provide a creative platform for artists and members of the community to express their concerns through poetry and music. The exhale sessions incorporate community gatherings of dance and movement, yoga and meditation sessions held every month that are open to the public and allow an opportunity for the organisation to bring awareness on mental health. Activity 2.1.4 Community Film and Arts Festivals: The film and Arts festivals are designed to share experiences captured through art within the targeted community. It strives to entertain and educate young people on mental health awareness. During these festivals the art productions produced will be showcased. Activity 2.1.5 Micro grants for art innovation mental health initiatives:In addition to these overall art activities, the art groups will also receive a micro grant for them to undertake more specific art innovation projects within their own communities. This could for instance be a community drive through road show where artists perform in hot spot areas for drug abuse or a street art exhibition.

***Result 2.1 focuses on creating awareness on mental health through sport*** and includes the following activities: Activity 2.2.1. Sport against Drugs:Sports against Drug is a campaign that aims at sensitizing the youths about effect of drugs while at the same time keeping young people occupied and away from drugs. There will be a series of tournaments on various sports disciplines that are both popular amongst young males and females. By working with established clubs, the goal is to enrol more young people as permanent members of these sport clubs, which will help keep them away from unhealthy lifestyles. Activity 2.2.2. Peer to peer sensitisation through sports: The peer-to-peer activities will help beneficiaries to interacting with other peers from greater social connectedness, feelings of group belonging and sharing of personal stories and strategies for coping with day-to-day challenges. While this is activity is not a sport activity, many of the participants for the peer-to-peer activities are expected to be identified and reached through sport events. Activity 2.2.3. Micro grants for sports innovation mental health initiatives**:** In addition to the overall community engagement activities each sport club will be able to receive a micro grant, for specific activities within their target community. This could e.g., be for as 3 on 3 basketball games, 7 aside soccer tournaments, and so on to mobilize more young people and youth athletic groups to participate in the project.

**Specific objective 3: Improved access to services for young people affected by mental health problems**

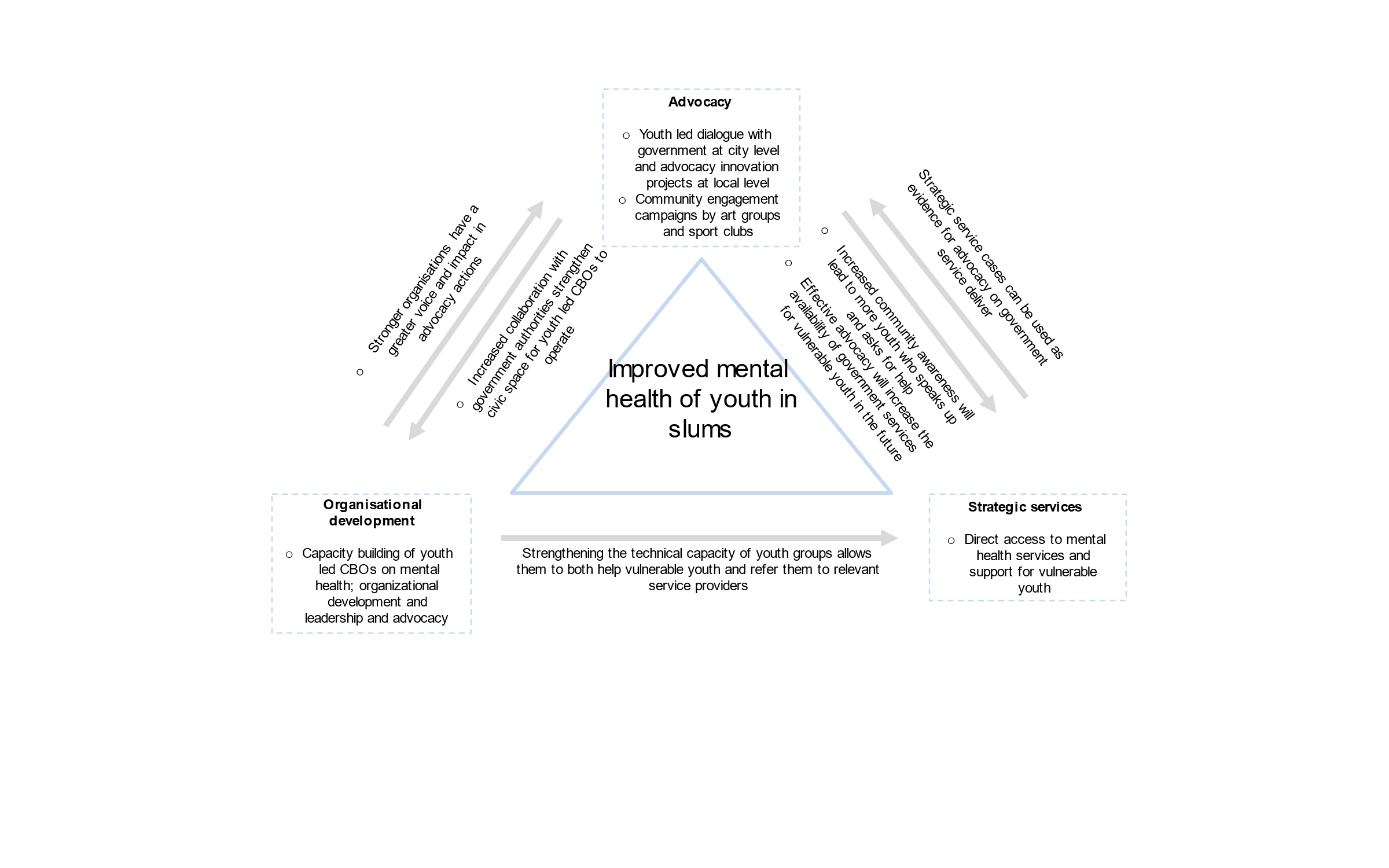
***Result 3.1. focuses on ensuring young have access to mental health services*** and includes the following activities. *Activity 3.1.1. Network and coordination meetings with service providers:* Through the project we will establish a better collaboration and network between urban slum communities and government service providers. This is to ensure that more youths can access the health services that are available. However, we are also aware of the fact that the government’s services and capacity is limited. We have therefore also included a partnership with two national CSO who are experts in providing relevant services. These include *Activity 3.1.2. Psychosocial support*. This will be serviced by the CSO CATCH, which Dreamtown collaborates with on another project. In addition, the support also includes *Activity 3.1.3. Legal support*, which will be serviced by the CSO JCT, which Dreamtown collaborates with on several other projects.

**3.6.** **Implementation plan**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Activities** | **Q1** | **Q2** | **Q3** | **Q4** | **Q5** | **Q6** | **Q7** |
| Coordination and learning meetings |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Start up meetings with government |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| External evaluation |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Result 1.1. Grassroots academy |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Result 1.2. Youth advocacy |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Result 2.1. Sports campaigns |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Result 2.2. Art Campaigns |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Result 3.1. Referral with gov. sector service providers |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Result 3.2. Referral with CSO service providers |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**3.7. The Development Triangle**

The project’s strategy combines mutually enforcing strategies of advocacy, organisational capacity development and strategic services, as depicted in the model below.



**3.8. Objectives, activities, expected results and indicators of the intervention**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Development objective:** Improved mental health and wellbeing amongst young people living in vulnerable urban communities across Harare and Bulawayo | |
| **Specific objective 1: Strengthened capacity of youth led organisations to engage in mental health action and advocacy**  ***Indicators:*** *a)**% in Government funding for mental health budgets; b) # of Government personnel in mental health institutions; c) # of youth groups engaging in advocacy on mental health* | |
| **Results** | **Activities** |
| **Result 1.1.**15 youth led CBOs have strengthened their organisational capacity and technical skills on mental health through the Key to the City Academy | **A.1.1.1.** K2C Ac academy **-** Course 1 (Mental Health); **A. 1.1.2.** K2C Ac academy Course 2 (Internal governance, resource mobilization, financial management and entrepreneurship); **A. 1.1.3.** K2C Ac academy Course 3(Leadership, Advocacy and Active Citizenship) |
| **Result 1.3.** 15 youth led CBOs have engaged in advocacy for improved government priority of mental health | **A.1.2.1.** City level Alliance meetings; **A.1.2.2.** Micro grants for CBO advocacy innovation |
| **Specific objective 2: Strengthened community awareness and action on mental health in vulnerable urban communities**  ***Indicators:*** *d) # of youth who speaks openly about mental health problems in vulnerable urban communities; e) # of community initiatives addressing mental health problems; f) # of youth who seeks help to address mental health problems* | |
| **Results** | **Activities** |
| **Result 2.1.** 14 art groups have engaged in community campaigns | **A.2.1.1.** Mental Health Artivism Boot camps; **A.2.1.2** Artistic productions; **A.2.1.3** Open Mic Mental Health and Exhale Sessions; **A.2.1.4** Community Film and Arts Festivals; **A.2.1.5.** Micro grants for art innovation |
| **Result 2.2**. 5Sport clubs have engaged in community campaigns | **A.2.2.1.** Sport against Drugs; **A.2.2.2.** Peer to peer sensitisation through sports; **A.2.2.3.** Micro grants for sports innovation |
| **Specific objective 3: Improved access to support and services for young people affected by mental health problems in vulnerable urban communities**  ***Indicators:*** *g) # of youth receiving mental health services in vulnerable urban communities* | |
| **Results** | **Activities** |
| **Result 3.1.** Between 0 - 700 youth have received Mental Services by services provider | **A.3.1.1.** Coordination and referral with service providers; **A.3.1.2.** Psychosocial support; **A.3.1.3.** Legal support |
| **Cross cutting activities in pursuit of all objectives:**  **A. 0.1.1.** Coordination and learning meetings between HAA and YW (Start, midterm, end of project)  **A.0.1.2.** Start-up meetings with government authorities in Harar and Bulawayo; **A.0.1.3.** Support to HAA’s Arts Space in Hatcliffe; **A.0.1.4.** HAA monitoring in Bulawayo; **A.0.1.5.** Network and Capacity building visit in Denmark for HAA and Yellow World | |

**3.9. Contribution to sustainable and lasting improvements for the target groups**

Once the project is ended, we expect to see a much more supporting environment around young people suffering from mental health problems within marginalised slum communities in Harare and Bulawayo. We expect to see an environment with much less stigma and taboo surrounding mental health. We expect to see a significant increase in young people speaking up about their problem and seeking help. We expect to see a significant increase in strong, vibrant and skill full youth organisations actively and independent engaging in mental health actions. We expect to see more youths engaging in productive activities, such as art and sport, which will contribute towards the wellbeing. We expect to see an improved collaboration and referral of mental health cases between marginalised communities and service providers (government and private). And we expect to see a stronger political focus and attention around the problem, which we hope in a more long-term perspective, after the project has ended, will start translating into increased allocation of resources to the mental health sector in Zimbabwe.

**3.10. How relations with other actors, advocacy and long-term sustainability will be strengthened**

The project has a strong focus on strengthening the partners capacities, activities and relations with other actors and advocacy after the intervention period. Overall, the development of a youth led network consisting of more than 30 different types of youth led organisations, is one of the most ambitious youth networks established to date in Zimbabwe focused on mental health. Linked to this the project has an explicit focus on building the participating organisations capacity. For instance, the training academy will strengthen the organisations organisational structures, leadership, and skills in fundraising. For the sport clubs the intervention is expected to increase their membership base, and for the art groups the project will enhance their popularity amongst people in Zimbabwe. These are all initiatives that will contribute to strengthening the sustainability of the individual groups after the intervention is over, and combined, the sustainability of the entire intervention. Furthermore, the intervention is following up on the relationships we have already started to establish with important government stakeholders, such as the Ministry of Youth and the Ministry of Health. Through this intervention will keep engaging them on the long-term goal of increasing the participation of youth in decision making and strengthen government accountability around delivering services for vulnerable youth.

**3.11. Risks and mitigation**

The table below outlines key risks identified in the partnership which can potentially affect project implementation and those involved, along with mitigation plans. We will continuously evaluate the development of these risks, and others that might occur along the way.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Risk register** | | |
| **Risk factors** | **Mitigation actions** | **Risk level after mitigation** |
| **Risk:** Zimbabwe will enter election season during the project. This can potentially affect implementation of activities and events through government restrictions imposed on selected civil society actor.  *Likelihood:* High  *Impact:* High | Both HAA and YW will remain non-partisan and maintain a good working relationship with the Government. During past elections, and during the COVID-19 crisis during which the government of Zimbabwe limited the civic space for civil society, HAA and YW was able to work closely together with the Ministry of Youth and stay out of trouble. Thus, we will apply the same approach of close cooperation in this project. | Medium |
| **Risk:** During election times in Zimbabwe, the target group of youth from slums are vulnerable towards being mobilised by political elites into violent political campaigns.  *Likelihood:* High  *Impact:* Medium | The project is designed to reach out to the most vulnerable groups, who are likely to be mobilised by politicians. These include young men engaged in alcohol and substance abuse. Through the intervention we will focus on giving extra support and guidance to this specific group during election times. | Medium |
| **Risk:** High rates of inflation which might have an impact on the projected budget.  *Likelihood:* High  *Impact:* High | Inflation has for many years been a major challenge for working in Zimbabwe due to the multi-currency payment system. In addition, in the time of writing there are large fluctuations in the USD exchange rate due to the war in Ukraine. We will monitor the budget closely and stick with USD payments in Zimbabwe. However, we will most likely have to use the budget margin at some point, and we might also have to look at collapsing activities later in the project, if the fluctuations continue. | Medium |

**3.12. Plans for monitoring and learning**

Below is an overview of Dreamtown’s monitoring, evaluation and learning framework, which cut across all Dreamtown’s projects. During project inception a more detailed monitoring and evaluation plan will be developed between Dreamtown, HAA and YW which includes developing milestones and methods for measuring the projects indicators.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **MEL elements** | **Methods used** | **Timing/ frequency** | **Responsible** | **Data shared with** |
| Activity reports | Participant registration; Participant activity evaluations; Activity photos | Weekly | HAA and YW project staff | Feed into narrative reports to Dreamtown; photos and updates shared on WhatsApp |
| Narrative and financial progress reports | Dreamtown format for narrative and financial reports | Quarterly | HAA and YW project managers | Dreamtown |
| Monitoring visits | Project community visits; Informal interviews with target group; Dialogue with partners | Bi-annually | Dreamtown, project lead | Feed into reports for CISU and development of documentation for communication |
| Stories of change/community interviews | Photos and videos; Written stories | Ongoing | Dreamtown, Head of Communication and Stories | Feed into development of documentation for communication and advocacy efforts |
| Learning workshops | Online reflection meetings between Dreamtown, HAA and YW | Start, mid end | Dreamtown, HAA and YW project team | Dreamtown, HAA and YW internally |
| End of project external evaluation | Target group interviews and survey; CISU format for final report | End of project | Dreamtown, HAA, YW | CISU; Target groups |

**External evaluation:**This project includes an external evaluation. The external evaluation will be conducted within the last quarter of the project. In addition to evaluating impact, we see the evaluation process as a strategic way to also build the capacity of HAA and YW within the area of M&E. In so doing, we will already engage the local consultant team at the beginning of the project. In so doing, their Terms of Reference will not be limited to the end of project evaluation. The consultant team will also be responsible for conducting capacity building trainings for HAA and YW at the beginning of the project. This training will focus on ***i)*** what to expect from an external evaluation, including an introduction to the OECD-DAC evaluation criteria (since this is the first time the partners are evaluated); ***ii)*** how to develop an easy to use and effective M&E framework; ***iii)*** and how to undertake on-going monitoring, evaluation and learning in practice that will feed into the end of project evaluation process and report. From Dreamtown’s perspective we are also interested in exploring how the evaluation can be used for broader advocacy and communication. Among other things, we will explore how the external evaluation can translated into a short learning paper on youth led action and mental health in slums. In addition, we will explore, together with the consultant, how an external evaluation can be undertaken as a youth friendly and youth empowering process that inspires further action.

**Complaint mechanisms and safeguarding:** Working with sensitive issues surrounding mental health makes complaint mechanism and safeguarding policies extremely important. Dreamtown recently undertook a CISU Capacity Assessment. One of the recommendations mentioned in the assessment report, was that Dreamtown could strengthen our complaint and feedback mechanism on development projects (we already have it well implemented in our humanitarian interventions). As a response to the Capacity Assessment, Dreamtown has already set up an online complaint mechanism on our website where anyone can submit reports on misconduct. In addition to this, once the project starts, we will work together with HAA and YW on establishing a context-based complaint mechanisms within the project. In terms of Safeguarding, *Dreamtown* already has a safeguarding policy covering all employees in the organisation. When the project starts, we will work with HAA and YW on developing and strengthening their own internal safeguarding policies.

**Learning across projects:** In our efforts to scale up and qualify our MEL work, Dreamtown has employed a Head of Research and Learning, Jakob Falk. Jakob is working on strengthening Dreamtown’s overall Theory of Change and developing a programmatic M&E framework which includes indicators and targets cutting across the countries where Dreamtown works. The goal of these initiatives is to strengthen documentation and learning from individual projects, and at the same time evaluate the larger impact we are creating in the world by measuring our impact across projects and countries. This project will be included in these efforts.

4. Intervention-related information work in Denmark

The overall purpose of the information work will be to broaden the understanding among the Danish population about the lives of urban youth in Zimbabwe. The final content and formats of the intervention-related information work will be developed in dialogue with HAA and YW. Materials could include photos, case stories, and short videos for web and social media – which will feed into Dreamtown’s overall communication strategy. The communication will be directed towards young urban people as well as other organisations, who make up Dreamtown’s two key target groups in Denmark.

5. Supplementary financing

N/A

1. <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.POP.SLUM.UR.ZS?locations=ZW> and according to the UN [↑](#footnote-ref-2)