**THE CIVIL SOCIETY FUND**

**DEVELOPMENT INTERVENTIONS**

**Project title:** Anchoring a Civil Society model toward localising the SDGs in Ghana, Uganda and Zambia

**1.** **Objective and relevance**

The project development objective is to create a south-to-south focused collaboration platform among project partner Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and other stakeholders in Ghana, Uganda and Zambia. The platform will focus on the important task of localizing the UN Global Goals (SDGs) at grassroots level.

The overarching aim of the project will be met through 3 immediate objectives:

1. Mobilize and engage our partners’ direct target groups (youth) by enabling them to create and take ownership of localizing the SDGs through grassroots activities

2. Facilitate the building of synergies, good practices and success stories about localizing the SDGs through a collaborative platform

3. Lobby and advocate for more supportive policy frameworks that will ensure longer term entrenchment of the various SDGs targets at grassroot levels

We understand that with the planning of a project at this time, the multiple effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on project implementation – as well as the need to actively raise awareness of the virus implications and how to react to it – must be taken into account. This is why the COVID-19 context will be taken carefully into consideration at all stages and levels of the project.

**Localization**

The project deems localization as the ability for the local grassroots – people, local governments, grassroots civil society groups, grocery stores, local bars etc. to be able to know what the SDGs are, their importance, how to get involved and participate in the SDGS agenda as duty and rights. This will also facilitate that the different actors and participants see the need for working together towards achieving the goals as a key to the sustainable development of their communities. The idea of development is an ongoing process of societal improvement within and across communities and in harmony with the environment in the framework the SDGs Agenda. Taking this assumption into consideration, we strongly believe that the achievement of the Agenda 2030 requires a genuine change in attitudes, behaviors and contexts from the local, through the national, regional and the global collaboration partnership.

Thus, this project seeks to contribute the changes we want to see through supporting the localization of the SDGS by our partners in Ghana, Uganda and Zambia. The intends to enable local youth communities in the 3 countries to identify and describe their own needs and most effectives means of localizing the SDGs. Toward that aim, the project partners will provide the space and capacity building and mentoring of the youth to understand, reflect on and craft innovative ways to take ownership of and implement the goals in their local areas - through the different activities under immediate objective 1. In immediate objective 2, we mobilize institutions including local grassroots CSOs, local government departments, regional institutions as well as national coordinating agencies and locally present INGOs. This will help the INGOs connect with and understand the local context of the different communities better through deeper understanding how the SDGs influence the level, as well as gain insights into how best planning systems and policy mechanisms can be tailored to localize the SDGs and their benefits. Immediate objective 2 further seeks to expand this project and its agenda from a local and national level to the pan African level by facilitating the creation of a transnational platform for exchanging of experiences, better practices and collaboration toward localizing the SDGs in three African countries. Finally, immediate objective 3 focuses on creating spaces and avenues for advocating for policy and planning mechanism change towards frameworks that enable more effective localization and utilization of the Agenda 2030 at the local, national and international level.

**Motivation for making this collaboration transnational:**

Over the past years, Crossing Borders (CB) has been partnering with the Ghana Community Network (GCRN) in Ghana, Uganda Youth Network (UYONET) and Open Space Center (OSC) in Uganda and African Youth for Peace and Development in Sierra Leone. CB has also been collaborating in youth policy engagement projects with Young Women's Christian Association Council of Zambia and with Circus Zambia (CZ) in Zambia and My Age Zimbabwe in Zimbabwe. In all these projects, we have been surprised but also challenged by how similar many of the challenges our partners are facing are. The SDGs projects in Uganda, Ghana and Sierra Leone have been both challenging and inspiring in showing us how we have been limited in enabling our partners in these three countries to talk about the possibility of inspiring each other on how they could innovate or exchange good practices in achieving greater results. The same can be said of the relationship between Zambia and Zimbabwe, and UYONET in Uganda, with which we have implemented youth and policy projects before.

The call for South-to-South collaboration and innovations in development has been with us for decades, but little has been done. It is a challenge for southern civil society actors to create partnerships about sharing of respective knowledge and best practices with other fellow related organizations across the south. However, such collaboration could serve as a way of network and capacity building of the different organizations in areas outside of their niche. Hence, after intense dialogue in the past two years with partners, we now want to move on to a new level of a consortium intervention with three of our most capable and ready partners: GCRN, OSC and CZ. Together, we aim at collaboration around a common cause – localizing the SDGs and finding ways in which this agenda could become a model in Africa.

Toward this, the project will derive from their respective knowledge and experience domain to turn common challenges into joint solutions. Through the idea of “south-to-south” peer learning facilitated by a shared platform; such challenges will be addressed across the proposed two and a half year project. The project offers space for transnational networking, possibilities for joint programming, possibilities for South-to-South resource mobilization and, not least, potential for a more closely relevant capacity building experience.

The project holds that, by facilitating that our partners develop products jointly, it will lead to more focus on joint context-based tools development and utilization. This will avoid the situation of multiple tools creation especially as the SDGs wave grows stronger. This will also be relevant in building further on local context-based knowledge, skills, and trust, and decreasing the limitation of the western-centered solutions.

**The project is a model and focuses on youth as a direct target group:**

While a long-term goal outside the scope of this project is the possibility of instigating the development of an Africa-wide platform for collaboration on the SDGs, we intend to start with building and testing out a model of the platform across Ghana, Uganda and Zambia, where we have good experiences with our partners. They are experienced, motivated and highly optimistic about its results of the collaborative platform.

While the project targets different stakeholders, the direct target groups are the youth. They will be the catalysts who will be at the center of localization activities, mini SDGs localization projects, and designing creative engagements as part of the project. Having youth as the direct target does resonate with the fact all partners and CB across, are youth centered. Furthermore, in all the three countries youth are the vast majority. They are innovative and creative and want change, and yet are the most marginalized when it comes to rights, entitlements and political influence.

We will by the end of the project have tested a model for collaboration across 3 countries that can be used not just for localizing the SDGs through youth, but for other collaborative purposes.

**Context of the intervention**

SDGs are on the agendas in most African countries. The UN is active here, African Development Bank is opening up increased investment for the SDGs, a Sustainable Development Goals Center for Africa has been developed to bring together cross-sectoral actors on the goals, African agenda 2063 is also predominantly based on the SDGs framework.

In the project three countries, there are developed SDGs coordinating mechanisms and targets with indicators. Both Ghana and Uganda have already participated in voluntary reporting to the UN on their progress. In fact, Ghana is placed as one of the best performing countries regarding reporting full data to the UN. Zambia is also on track in setting up relevant institutional frameworks for the SDGs. Zambia is the host of the SDGs Sub-Regional Center for Southern Africa (SDGCA),whose aim is to bring together ideas and experts on the SDGs for better contextualized representation of Africa.

On the local level in all the countries of this intervention, CSOs and other actors form one of the central platforms for supporting government initiatives to reach the local grassroots. And in this regard, our partners – Ghana Community Radio Network (GCRN), Open Space Centre (OSC) from Uganda, Circus Zambia (CZ) have already demonstrated their crucial roles in these efforts.

**How does the intervention contribute towards strengthening civil society organization that promotes compliance with rights and equal access to resources and participation?**

Holistically, if the different countries/local communities taking part in this project succeed in achieving the objective of localizing the SDGs - and contributing to realizing the goals, be it in 2030 or later - there will have been built institutional frameworks that support the strengthening of civil society as well as the rights and equal access to resources and participation.

The project aims to strengthen civil society organization to advance social justice by improving the capacity of civil society organisations to cooperate transnationally and influence policy. By encouraging the discussion of the UN’s SDGs, youth in Ghana, Uganda and Zambia will be able to include and realize their own rights to participate and to influence decision-making processes which affect their present and future lives, reduce inequality and fight poverty. The lessons learnt by the project partners’ experiences of SDG localization will be shared among them via the platform, which will continue as a database for ongoing mutual learning, exchange and sharing of vital information to help strengthen civil society in all three of the project countries.

By project design, we are chosen three immediate objectives at three different levels. Immediate objective 1 targets the mobilization and building of capacities of young people at grassroots level to be front runners in the realization of the SDGs. This group of both males and females is one of the most marginalized in both public policies and in SDGS interventions in Africa. Therefore, there are several components aimed at strengthening young people’s ability to work with the SDGs. Training in social mobilization and activism, facilitating and mentoring on developing projects will contribute to strengthening civil society’s capacity and compliance in organizing to advance social justice toward the realization of people’s rights, reducing inequality and fighting poverty, participation in decision making. This will be fostered across both immediate objective 2 and 3 that call for more institutional and policy focus on the role of youth in the SDGs.

Immediate objective 2 targets the institutional level and development of capacities among youth to organize and join forces with the results of strengthening them. In this regard, the projects aim to support the partners to continue building their capabilities and institutional networks to be able to engage with other stakeholders on the SDGs localization. The project intends to expand the network of our partner organizations and stakeholders from local to transnational spheres through the platform. This will open new ways of civil society activism, knowledge sharing, capacity building and networking. This is expected to strengthen the organisations in their work. In addition to this objective and objective 3, we are convinced that the project will contribute to a stronger civil society in terms of stronger capacity to push for their rights to participation in the SDGS agenda.

**How does the intervention contribute towards bringing about lasting improvements for poor, marginalized and vulnerable target groups?**

The intervention will contribute towards bringing about lasting improvements for poor, marginalized and vulnerable target groups by raising their awareness, building their capabilities and creating a platform for the partners to contribute to localizing the efforts to achieve the SDGs and collaborate across the three countries. As indicated in the context description, the project intends to contribute to lasting improvements through its contribution to the achievement of Agenda 2030, according to which “no one is left behind”. Inherent in the SDGs is the specific attention to the most marginalized of communities, an emphasis we will make across the project, including giving space for people with disabilities, most at risk – indigenous groups where found, women and girls towards the localization of the SDGs.

**Limitations with the SDGs (Agenda 2030)**

Though it would be preferable to think that with the national focus on reporting on the SDGs, the policy environment in the three project countries would create a supporting environment for local grassroots engagement. Unfortunately, there are still many roadblocks that hinder the effective participation of CSOs and CBOs in the efforts to achieve the SDGs. Our Ghana partner GCRN reports a continued decline in the freedoms of expression. This includes limitation of broadcast radius and arbitrary denial of permissions to start new local radios in a country where the radio is still the main means of local information in the local languages. This violates the rights to information, news, entertainment, education and engagement in the local languages and contexts. These limitations directly affect the idea of localizing the SDGs, and the opportunities to have local voices get involved and contribute to the SDGs agenda.

In Uganda, where we have been implementing SDGs projects, there remains a huge gap between the local school contexts and how the policy on the SDGs prevent young people and other local communities from participating in localizing the SDGs as part of the curriculum and extra-curricular activities.

In Zambia, where we have been implementing projects for and by young people, we experience the same trend of shrinking the spaces for young people and local communities to participate in crucial local policy processes. Democratization, local participation, good governance are central parts of facilitating SDGs 16 and 17. These two goals for strong institutions and sustainable partnership stipulate the rights of citizens towards a fair and just society, and also are the prerequisite for effective, people centered public service delivery, which is the bottom line and aspiration for pushing for the SDGs.

Finally, in spite of the above limitations and backsliding, it is important to recall that Africa has experienced impressive progress in many aspects throughout the past decade. The African Agenda 2063, Africa-Brazil, Africa-China, Africa-EU, Africa-India and Africa-Russia Summits are parts of the positive signs of change. Add to the innovations in the mobile tech, Apps and other various infrastructure and high-profile projects are among the indicators of improvements.

Although the long-term impacts of the COVID-19 is yet to be known, the above offers hope and scope for optimism in the development of stronger civil society players that are able to push for both the localization of the SDGs and the collaboration across Africa towards their achievements.

**Climate- and environmental conditions that the partnership needs to respond to**

The project aims at broadening collective knowledge on how to localize the UN Global Goals for sustainable development. Therefore, it is natural that in objective 1, the aim is to create dialogue space toward localizing the SDGs in the hands of the target groups. The emphasis of the two other objectives are on creating a platform for the sharing of knowledge and resources about localizing the SDGs and influencing policy making and processes through the knowledge and advocacy in each partner country.

The project’s component on digital capacity building is in direct response to the circumstances that come about by the COVID-19 pandemic, which includes lockdowns and/or restrictions on movement and gathering. Thus, as is described further below, digital capacity building has been added to the original project activities.

**2.** **Partnership and partners**

This project is a consortium of four organizations in four countries: Crossing Borders (CB) in Denmark, Ghana Community Network (GCRN) in Ghana, Open Space Center (OSC) in Uganda and Circus Zambia (CZ) in Zambia.

**The experiences, capacities and resources of participant partners**

The choice of the countries and partners above is based on Crossing Borders previous experience partnering with these organizations with successful partnerships and results. The country contexts of the three countries are in many ways very similar with huge youth populations, natural, human and cultural resources and relative peace and steady economic growth and high-tech savvy youth. The partner organisations are all youth focused but deploying different methodologies in their approach. In Ghana the radio is the primary means of participation in public affairs, in Uganda it is debates and festivals while in Zambia it is the theatre and circus. CB brings in 21 years of experience in complex international project development, school services, the Danish højskole, voluntarism, partnership, dialogue and peace education from the Middle East, Denmark, Caucasus, Europe and Africa. This makes the partner organisations complement one another, exchange ideas and experiences for mutual learning and collaborations toward common good and for the benefit of the project.

As already mentioned above, CB has been collaborating and successfully implementing several projects with all the three partners.

**Applying organization: Crossing Borders**

CB is a 21 year old non-profit and nonpartisan civil society organization with the mission that educates and empowers young people to become active global citizens. Toward this, CB creates spaces (both physical and virtual) for young people to have dialogue around issues that affect them or that create opportunities for them in their local communities. CB has five interconnected and mutually reinforcing programs: school services which aims to bring the real world to the Danish schools through thematic workshops, debate camps and youth exchanges focusing on pression global issues of the time such as the COVID-19, Racism, Climate change, Migration and intercultural coexistence on equal terms, global højskole studies focusing on key global dimensions of challenges and possible solutions, volunteer programs for youth to gain experience in an international working environment, Food for Thought storytelling events in the Ubuntu House in CPH and international projects around the world (currently in Uganda, Ghana, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Sierra Leone, Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine and in Denmark, plus 14 EU funded Strategic Partnership projects across Europe focusing on inclusion, entrepreneurship and non-formal education.) In all these projects, we deploy dialogue based and højskole inspired participatory methods that put youth in the driving seat.

**Local partner 1: Ghana Community Radio Network (GCRN)**

Ghana Community Radio Network (GCRN) is the association of Community Radio stations and initiatives in Ghana who bring to life the philosophy and practice of participatory Community Radio with devotion and passion. GCRN aims to enhance the use and build the capacity of Community Radio to enable marginalized communities and groups to generate and share their knowledge and experience, to participate in discourse and decision-making at every level, to develop the richness of their culture, and to strengthen their communities as part of the national and global family.

By numbers, GCRN is composed of over 25 community radio stations and 1 community television station under one umbrella. The organization started out as a community radio group under Radio Ada in Ada in Ghana and has over the past 20 years generated fellowships. They have been under constant attack from both private business radios and religious radios for opening up the airwaves to free communications but have never wavered in their commitment. Some of these shocks have also come from the government, motivated by political interests in private radios. This has been seen by limiting the community radio frequencies or arbitrarily closing or suspending some of GCRNs members. Fights, advocacies, lobbying, policy changes have been made across the past 20 years of the organization’s life, but GCRN has singularly survived due to the value these community radios bring to the sometimes-vast communities whose only alternative is to access paid radio and politicized information sources.

The vision of GCRN is a world of culturally vibrant communities working together for inclusive, equitable and peaceful development. And the mission is to grow Participatory Community Radio for All to have a Voice and exercise their Right to Communicate for their collective well-being.

**Local partner 2: Open Space Centre (OSC)**

Open Space started as a pure debate project, founded by the then university youth, simply inviting other youths to discuss and debate pressing social problems, at sessions held in the Makerere University main hall. Due to the concept's popularity, the founders evolved it into an NGO, and for the past many years, Open Space has been at the forefront of many debate actions in almost all universities in the country.

Through the ´Youth SDGs Awareness through Debate Program´, Open Space rolled out its debate concept in secondary schools championing the SDGs agenda with great success. Mobilizing high school youths around SDGs during the pilot has brought many benefits as we have earlier mentioned, but it has also given Open Space the audience, the capacity, and a new role as a CSO, within one of our niche areas – debate. We see an extension of this project as an opportunity for us to contribute to Uganda’s SDGs agenda, while we ourselves get stronger as Open Space adds a new dimension to our work - mentorship. Open Space already has an existing pool of trainers, facilitators, and educational resources around the topics of SDGs and debate, let alone civil society mobilization. The Youth Panel on SDGs formed during the project brings together twenty youth organisations working on SDGs and is hosted by Open Space.

**Local partner 3 – Circus Zambia (CZ):**

CZ is a grass roots organisation that has its roots in Chibolya, Zambia. Three of its four co-founders have been born and raised in this area. They have had first-hand experience with the realities of growing up in Lusaka’s urban disadvantaged areas. As a reaction to the challenges they encountered in this context CZ was founded in December 2015. Since its inception CZ has been working in Chibolya and over 20 similar communities. Through circus, theatre and creative workshops and shows we have worked with youth, community leaders and duty bearers on topics such as Juvenile Rights (supported by GIZ), Sexual Reproductive Health Rights (supported by MTV SAF), social inclusion and rights of marginalized groups (supported by Prince Claus Fund), Human Rights (supported by US embassy in Lusaka) and many other topics. CZ has worked specifically on women’s rights and gender equality through its programs Clowns for Condoms (MTV) and Breaking Boundaries (Prince Claus Fund).Through these programs we have partnered with Pepeta and have been invited to participate in networking events among women’s rights organisations in Southern Africa, such as the Feminist Festival Lusaka and Pepeta Ladies Brunch.

**The roles and areas of responsibility of the partners and of any other actors.**

Our project will be organized as follows:

As lead organization, CB will be the overall project coordinator and legally responsible for the overall implementation of the project. In this role, CB will ensure that the project stands clear to all the partners and that the partners adhere to the funding guidelines and aspirations of Civil Society concepts. That the different partners draw up country specific work plans for the local implementation of the project, and together with CB formulates a work plan for the initiation and running of the project designed collaboration platform. Crossing Borders will also be the lead in the overall monitoring and evaluation of the project across the period of implementation, including financial monitoring. CB will in working with specific hosting countries (partners), also be responsible for inter-country activities, here including the Kick-off meeting, peer meetings, international symposium and mid-term monitoring, final monitoring and evaluations. As the platform finds its feet, it will become an entrance point for cross partner knowledge exchange and communication.

Specifically, in relation to monitoring, the partnership will set up a Coordination Committee composed of one representative from each country/partner organization to hold the consortium quality in balance and on track. The Coordination Committee will also act as the team of members that together with CB plan the inter-country events (peer meetings and international conferences), as well as peer reviewing the different activities that will be implemented in each of the partnering countries. Their work will both take place through online channels, as well as at the physical peer meetings that we have pre-planned for keeping the project on course. Locally, each partner will implement the country-based activities, where the partnership will utilize the kick-off meeting and peer meetings to draw-up implementation work plans and adjust these as needed or context demands. The local partners will also oversee setting up local monitoring systems for the project that are expected to feed into the inter-partner monitoring needs, as well as the deliberations of the Coordination Committee for the project.

**How will the intervention develop the relationship between the partners?**

The relationship between CB and all the other partners is already set firm, and we know for sure that by furthering our cooperation through this project, we will be contributing to the development of strong links between all the different partners. This project will specifically strengthen our collaborative and collective knowledge around how the SDGs become localized.

It will be the first time GCRN, OSC and CZ will be cooperating on a project, and this project itself aims at building a strong relationship of civil society actors across Africa that can work together to build linkages on ways the continent’s social challenges can be managed. This project envisions a model – a try out and practice for the two and a half years duration on how the partners can find commonalities in implementing the SDGs locally, lifting this to the international level and getting the results/outcomes of this cooperation to influence the continental and global perspectives on how to engage with SDGs in local communities in Africa. This process also entails a system of sharing best practices, exchanging methodologies and tools, exchanging ways of thinking and perspectives, as well as building cooperating networks around how to work with SDGs locally, as well as on an international level

In a nutshell, this project’s ambition is to deliberately catalyze lasting relationships between and among these partners and other stakeholders that will be part of the project along the way, to think beyond the local and to try out and normalize working across boundaries. Moreover, the SDGs agenda being global truly benefits from these transnational ties to be able to scale up the gains of such a huge agenda.

**How the intervention contribute to strengthening relations with other actors and the partners acting as a catalyst**

This project’s premise is that the partners will play three main roles. Firstly, through immediate objective 1 the three local partners are targeting the mobilization of youths and their local communities to come to the center of articulating the SDGs agenda into local terms, here ensuring that there is build good knowledge of the SDGs, how these affect the local communities and how the local communities can both work with the SDGs and follow-up, monitor and hold policy planners accountable. By doing this at a very individual level, the partners and the project in general is aiming at building momentum of all that can be mobilized to the project to act.

Within immediate objective 1, the partners also aim to facilitate the formation of Youth Task Forces (YTFs), and further empower these to mobilize local communities, as well as facilitate community reflections and actions around the SDGs agenda for further localization. In a way, by forming and sustaining the YTFs in all countries, the project is catalyzing the emergence of a strong local mobilization force that will form a channel for agendas other than the SDGs to reach down to the local communities. The project also proposes formation, selection, mentoring and implementing of 21 mini SDGs projects aimed at furthering the mobilization of local communities to the SDGs as well as building more knowledge and frameworks for working with the goals at this level.

Immediate objective 2 of the project focuses more on the institutional level of the goals. Delving into how different institutional stakeholders are working or experiencing the SDGs, as well as mobilizing these to take a central role in localizing the agenda 2030. Notably, the project aims at building synergies and multiplying good practices, tools and methods for different stakeholders to work towards the goals. The project is also bringing this collaboration to an international level through, among others, a digital platform for reflecting on the SDGs; local quarterly reflection meetings with other stakeholders to chart different ways on how the SDGs can be localized for great success; facilitating inter-partner reflections at peer meetings as a way of gaining more inspiration for working with the project, the SDGs and other development issues in their local communities. In this way the project creates many avenues for catalyzing multi-actor networking, joint reflections and hopefully actions around the SDGs, as well as specific knowledge and methodologies on how one can in practice work with the SDGs. The creation of a shared, digital platform among the partners will improve the partners’ ability to implement SDG-related projects through active knowledge sharing and will help to establish their position as valuable holders of relevant knowledge.

Immediate objective 3 focuses on the local partners lobbying for improved policy and planning frameworks to make the work of localizing the SDGs easier, better funded, better supported, better focused on the challenges of the grassroot level. Indeed, even across the national and international activities that the project proposes, there is a good focus on how this feeds into catalyzing more reflection on how the SDGs can be moved from a global buzzword to a local framework for achieving better livelihoods in many local communities.

In Denmark, Crossing Borders will utilize their cooperation with platforms including the partnership with several CSOs that utilize UBUNTU house as a co-working space and a place to hold events, workshops and seminars. The network of primary, boarding and high schools as well as højskoler that the organization already works with, within the framework of our Danish Schools Services program. Furthermore, together with Promentum (a business consulting company), we in the final touches of developing a platform for cooperation between private companies and Civil Society Organizations with the aim of contributing toward the achievement of the SGDs with emphasis on goal 17. This platform is intended to create a strong synergy for CSOs, business and public partnership for the SGDs in Denmark.

**3.** **Target groups, objectives, strategy, and expected results**

**Primary target group**

The direct target group and stakeholders of this project are the youth. It is no secret that the youth in Africa make up the vast majority (above 60% of the population, according to credible reports), and is the driving force for the positive change we want to see. They are in the forefront of the struggle for democracy, responsible governance, social and high-tech innovation and sustainable development. The previous and recent peaceful movements for democracy, human rights, dignity and freedom have been spearheaded by the youth from South Africa to Sudan to Mali, to name just a few examples. Hence the youth in Africa are the hopes, current driving dynamo and future leaders of a new, self-reliant Africa. However, any marginalization of the youth could turn them into a time-bomb as we have witnessed in Boko Haram in Nigeria and Al Shaba in Somalia. Thus, it is in the interest of not only Africa, but the whole world to ensure proper inclusion of youth in the efforts toward the achievement of the UN Agenda 2030. Giving the youth a seat at the table is a matter of human rights. This will enable them to better contribute to the efforts to ground within their communities the basic human rights to education, training, employment and health services as the key to social peace and sustainable development. It is also the best remedy to tragic illegal migration through the scourged earth of the Sahara and the storms of the Mediterranean Seas, which have devoured over 20,000 young lives in recent years.

Therefore, this project should be seen as part of the urgently needed solution to the crossing-cutting issues of youth participation, ensuring responsible governance, relevant education, employment and legal migration and the achievement of the SDGs. Taking these critical contexts in the 3 countries into account, the specific target groups of the project in the partner countries are as follow:

**A description of the various primary target groups from the perspective of the 3 organisations**

In **Ghana**, the primary target groups are youth with demonstrated leadership in the communities and also others with the potential for leadership in the local, regional and national contexts. The target also comprise youth with keen interest in deploying the various community radios of the Ghana Community Radio Network (GCRN) and other on and offline media platforms to exercise their right to communicate and to be listened to in the effort to contribute to the ownership and localization of the SDGs, good governance and South – South collaboration in developing a model for youth inclusion in the 2030 Agenda. Other target groups and stakeholders include civil society, public, media and social businesses in the local and other relevant areas of the target groups, including political parties, local and national authorities and educational entities.

In **Uganda**, the primary target groups are youth who are affiliated with Open Space Center’s debate forums such as the youth festival, which Open Space organizes annually, following their participation in the Bornholm Folkemødet. Other key target groups are youth leaders and those with leadership aptitude in the urban center’s including slums in Kampala and other mega human settlements. Organized youth parliament, youth led businesses and high schools and universities, networks and community leaders, public, civic and social businesses are among the target groups and stakeholders in the project section in Uganda. As the project seeks to create an Africa-Africa model and platform for collaboration in localizing the SDGs, we seek out and include youth with this particular interest as well.

In **Zambia** there are youth groups with a strong interest in using community theaters and circus skills to mobilize, activate and inspire themselves and other fellow youth to get involved and play a leading role in the localization of the SGDs agenda in their communication. Thus, the project target groups are within the framework of the Zambian partner’s target groups of youth with interest in using creativity as a methodology for youth enlightenment, motivation and activation in the areas of the project objectives of localizing the SDGs and the creation of the model for collaboration across the three countries.

All through the project we strive towards gender equality. The YTFs will be equal girls and boys, and spreading the word about community events will always entail an aim for gender and social diversity, as will our approach towards other stakeholders and policy makers as much as possible.

In summary, the total approximated numbers reach for the primary target groups by activities. The numbers are aggregated from all three countries:

* For activities 1-5 - related to immediate objective 1 - they are estimated to directly reach 8.026 youth and other community members in the three countries through the Youth Task Forces (YTFs), Youth Community Parliaments (YPs), Community Entry Dialog Meetings (CM), Digital Skills training (DS), and Community Level SDGs Mini Projects (CLMPs).

This will come about by 326 youth becoming members of the YTFs, 2.450 youth participating in the YPs (this number comes about if the same youth participates in all YPs, but it will be higher if the participants vary from YP to YP in the individual countries), 3.000 through CMs, 150 through DSs, and at least 2.100 through CLMPs.

* For activities 6-8 - related to immediate objective 2 - they are estimated to directly reach 1.805 people from CBOs, CSO, local communities, political parties, public authorities and partner staff. 59 partner staff in relation to platform creation, 120 staff and consultants and other stakeholders for meetings on creating the guide on best practice for localizing the SDGs, 1626 people in relation to actions around activity 8 on network expansion.
* For activities 9-11 - related to immediate objective 3 - they are estimated to directly reach 2.760 youth and their communities, and community, district and national level leaders, and other stakeholder that take part in the local community meetings, community radio engagements, public engagement events at district and national level. 1.110 people in relation to local community meetings on policy generation, 1.200 people from district level events, and at least 430 people from national level events. And lastly 20 lead SDGs policy influencers internationally.
* Outside all these numbers are the listeners the various radio programs reach. The programs are aimed at our primary target groups in relation to the various activities.

In summary, the total approximated numbers reach for the secondary target groups by activities. The numbers are aggregated from all three countries:

* The secondary target groups are schoolmates, family, other community members, civil society actors, government officials, etc. that my word of mouth or radio hear about localization of the SDGs.

We approximate that we can intentionally reach 12.591 people within the primary target groups. From this we estimated the reach this project will have on the secondary target groups to be at a factor of 1 primary target group individual reaching at least 3 others. Generating a need for policy discussions and attention to localizing the SDGs in connection to work, school, at home, etc. We therefore approximate that this project will reach around 37.800 other people.

**The partners’ legitimacy vis-à-vis the target groups and as champions of the target groups’ cause.**

Each of the partners of this project is working within their area of competence, bringing with them the members, stakeholders and communities for whom they started their operations and serve. So, it is without doubt that the partners here represent the interests of their target groups – indeed this has been observed in the formation of the activities and how these answer to different target groups. Below is a summary of each partners’ representation.

GCRN aims to start this project within local communities primarily located within the areas of reach of the Community Radios that the organization serves as an umbrella. They operate all over Ghana and create space for youth to have a voice through community radio. Through multiple projects, they have championed youth by enhancing the capacity of community radio to provide a voice for marginalized groups. And all activities are tailored at mobilizing the Community Radios to work more with the SDGs as well as building the Community Radios capacities to continue their work – with eyes on the SDGs.

OSC is youth-to-youth engagement and has over the many years stood for the interest of schools and youth CSOs within the area of debating public issues. Along with their models of creating youth mentors and focus groups that carry the debating method beyond the core team’s reach. This also remains the initial target of this project. Through working with a mix of schools, youth groups and mentors, OSC in this project aspires to continue its many years journey towards engaging young people around debates and reflections on SDGs.

CZ has delineated the communities where this project will be implemented as 10 slums in Lusaka, maintaining their aspirations and promises of supporting the most at-risk young people to gain better chances in life. The project will be grounded starting with a nucleus of Peer Youth Educators. This has always been their methodology for creating a ripple effect, and the Peer Youth Educators will be trained to constitute the base of the Youth Task Forces for the SDGs. They will then roll out the project at the different local communities that they represent.

**The methodology of the project**

For all of the following methodology and stages, the project plan operates with an awareness of the limitations set forth by and need to adapt to the outbreak of Covid-19. Therefore, each of the following strategies bears that in mind. In order to conduct each of the following activities safely, the appropriate measures regarding social distancing in the context of Covid-19 will be adhered to and, depending on the situation at the time, training could be conducted online. In addition, the following activities will include awareness spreading and dialogue around the Coronavirus, as it is now fundamentally intertwined with the SDGs and their application in a local context.

The methodology of the project is to start from a bottom–up point of view by localizing the SDGs, enabling local grassroots youths and their communities to frame what they see as relevant aspects for the development of their communities. Using the SDGs as a framework for a sustainable approach to local development means that whatever theme or subject the youth and their local communities see a need to improve, they can always connect it to a national debate through the SDGs roadmaps for the individual nations. Space for such a local focus is indeed commonly not available to them within national debates. It creates an entry point for action by both the local communities – connecting them to a broader development debate – and for the project partners as they engage in garnering support towards achieving local development aspirations, and then complimenting this with lobbying for corresponding policy frameworks.

To reach the development objective, the methodology of the project is supported by three immediate objectives. These relate to the following: local action around the localization of the SDGs; the buildup of knowledge and interactions provided by the shared platform; and the lobby and advocacy needed to support the localization of the SDGs and to help instigate change.

Within the first immediate objective, the approach is to target the mobilization of actors from the local communities in Ghana, Zambia and Uganda and let this slowly filter into groups of young people and the wider community. Beginning at this local level gives our project the possibility to be grounded in the realities of the young people and the communities our partners are working with. This will benefit the project in defining and adjusting workable actions, as well as bringing the project activities and outcomes of this to a very personal level – just as we want the SDGs to be. As such, it aims to bring the SDGs from the policy to the local level and change them from abstract concepts to genuine tools for change: this first objective is an exploration of actualizing the SDGs in three different local contexts, each potentially revealing different challenging aspects of the localization process.

To strengthen the capacity of the project partners and other actors working with localizing the SDGs, this project will, in immediate objective 2, build a digital platform which will allow a number of things: fundamentally, it allows for both local and transnational dialog by use of a shared social media page that allows for a consistent, up-to-date sharing of relevant information and experiences; interaction with other actors that join the dialog on localizing the SDGs; and ultimately the production of a guide on best practice when working with localizing the SDGs. This guide would not be a one-off, printed issue, but will be a dynamic guide. This objective introduces another relevant component in the lives of the communities we are working with mainly the institutions and the behaviors of these institutions in facilitating local communities, frameworks, policies, methodologies, inspirations etc. in the name of developing local communities. The experience of our partner and ours within the configurations of the local contexts we will work in is that it is not enough to empower individuals, as these depend on the institutions around them. Our project, in mobilizing and getting other institutions - local government departments, SDGs coordinating agencies, other CSOs, Schools, Youth Associations - on board, aims to create higher possibilities for them to both learn about the project and the SDGs so that they themselves can adopt these values in what they do. We also aim at gaining their support and probably building on useful possibilities for better resource mobilization, more focus on SDGs-centered policy making and planning frameworks, as well as creating space for the youngsters and the communities under this project to aspire for more. We, as partners and the local communities we are working with also need allies in the instance of unfavorable development agendas. This immediate objective will create long-lasting change by producing a platform, growing network relations and a dynamic guide for localizing the SDGs that can be continually edited.

Immediate objective 3 focuses on the need for policy frameworks and planning mechanisms that focus on the local community level engagement with the SDGs in the bid to localize the Agenda 2030. People are governed under policy frameworks which also extends to how the governments deliver services or rights to its people and it is here that policies on education, health, gender equality, safe water etc. are articulated and made. As such, giving local communities a voice about policy, mobilizing the policy spaces within government to our project, lobbying them to take into account the lessons learnt on SDG localization, understanding the need for the thinking embodied by the SDG framework and possibly building a critical mass of voices that see the SDGs as a workable model for supporting the most marginalized, forms a central piece in our current as well as future development work.

Another strategy embodied by our project is that of the repetition of implementations. Across the different activities we have several repetitions on a quarterly, bi-annual or annual basis. Our experience with both learning as well as building habits, changing thinking and behavior, building confidence, building familiarity, acquaintances, networks, collaborations etc. is that things must be repeated several times. For us to be able to get young people to for example believe in meeting and discussing the SDGs and related dilemmas with the promise that this could feed into policy changes, will take time. The same with meetings/building synergies with other stakeholders – especially policy spaces. The same will also be for the convincing of our partner staff and volunteers that such a project could lead to positive impacts if we are insistent and keep pushing for such changes.

**Strategy and expected results**

To fulfill the development objective through the three immediate objectives, the project activity design can be understood as occurring in 3 overlapping stages relating to each of the three immediate objectives. The design of this project has at its core a focus on citizen engagement for the SDGs. By working on many levels with the concept of localization of the SDGs, the project aims at both grassroots level engagement, but also on how this engagement is, can and should be supported by various levels of government and international institutional actors.

The first stage is related to the first immediate objective and comprises activities 1-5. During this period, youth mobilize one another towards the localization of the SDGs through a series of debates, workshops and eventually mini projects. This creation of dialogue around and action towards the SDGs will (if successful) provide the partners with valuable experience around working with youth on the specific issue of the localization of the SDGs. It is this specificity that makes this first objective so crucial; through the trial and error of youth work, it provides the experience for the subsequent learning and harvesting of knowledge through the platform.

Stage 2 focuses on the second immediate objective,and is geared towards South-to-South network building. The network building will happen through a digital platform that creates a space for exchange of knowledge and experiences, and that can facilitate communication between the partners. The partners will use their experience of implementing stage 1 activities to gain a deeper understanding of shared challenges, opportunities and best practices when localizing the SDGs with young people. From that a guide on best practices when localizing the SDGs will be produced together. Training sessions (in activity 8) will take place across the partner countries which will use the guide as a base. This training would aim to expand the number of participants who could then interact within the platform, meaning that knowledge of best practice around SDG localization was further shared and more capacity could be built by south-to-south interaction.

In stage 3, that focuses on immediate objective 3, the partners use the newly established platform for sharing capacity to build concrete policy suggestions to be utilized towards advocacy at the local, national and transnational levels. More concretely, this will be achieved through engagement of responsible local, national and transnational departments on how the experiences and work of the national SDGs task forces can be localized, and how these institutions can tailor local policy to SDGs targets. The advocacy actions will happen through a combination of a series of small and medium-scale community level meetings held with policy related stakeholders and national symposiums on the SDGs held on a national level in Denmark, Ghana, Uganda and Zambia. All of these activities are based around bringing the knowledge developed in stage 1 and condensed and shared in stage 2 into a policy level debate at local, district and national basis, creating the opportunity for CSOs to influence society through SDG localization.

**The LFA - the objectives, activities, expected results and indicators of the project**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Description | Indicator and means of verification | Assumptions |
| **Development objective** | Create a south-to-south focused collaboration platform among project partner Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and other stakeholders in Ghana, Uganda and Zambia. The platform will focus on the important task of localizing the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at grassroots level | Partners and other stakeholders interconnectivity has increased via platform usage and shared experiences throughout project  Knowledge about the SDGs has spread in local communities, especially among youth, and is part of political discourse  Verified via youth participation, platform content archive, partner feedback, policy change | The project will integrate the societal restraints caused by Covid-19, but also assumes that society is not completely locked down as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic  Outside civil society stakeholders are interested in collaboration and building south-south connections  Local youth are interested in the development perspectives within the SDGs and are willing to work to localizing them within their communities |
| **Immediate objectives** | 1) Mobilize and engage our partners’ direct target groups (youth) by letting them create and take ownership of localizing the SDGs through grassroots level oriented activities | The youth can describe their own needs in relation to localization of the SDGs  Youth have taken ownership of the localization of the SDGs in their local communities  Youth and their local communities/grassroots have formulated concret development aspirations that connect back to the SDGs | Partners have the ability to mobilize youth  Partners have the ability to oversee the various activities run by the youth  Partners have capacity to absorb higher participation from youth  That the terms Local communities and Grassroots can entail many different configurations |
| 2) Facilitate the building of synergies, good practices and success stories about localizing the SDGs within the framework of a collaborative platform | Partners have actively uses the platform during the project to engage and communicate with partners and other stakeholders  Other stakeholder/institutions have been mobilized for participation on the platform  A guide on good practices and success stories are created and uploaded onto the platform  A sustainable setup for the platforms  continuation after the project has been achieved  Verified by platform use and platform content | Partners will gain confidence in using platform via digital capacity training  That an online platform can function as a means of communication for sustained partnership collaboration, during and after the project |
| 3) Lobby and advocate for more supportive policy frameworks that will ensure longer term entrenchment of the various SDGs targets at grassroot levels | Partner’s and youth/local communities/grassroots have established channels of lobby and advocacy with local decision makers on the SDGs  The partners have engaged a number of national and transnational departments on how the experiences from the project can help reach the national SDGs targets, and why policy change is needed  Verified by partner feedback, list of participants and reports | Localizing the SDGs will help reach Agenda 2030  Information is gained through the online platform in a manner which facilitates lobby and advocacy on SDG-related policy reform  The platform can become a space that brings people together for advocating for policy and planning mechanism change towards frameworks that enable more effective localization and utilization of the Agenda 2030 at the local, national and international level |
| **Outputs**  (the number in brackets after the number indicating which immediate objective the output connects to [e.g 1.1], is the corresponding Activity number as can be found further down below the LFA frame. This numbering can also be found in the budget) | 1.1 (1) 26 Youth Task Forces (YTFs) have been mobilized from local communities, by 01.04.2021  1.2 (2) 43 Youth Parliaments (YPs) have been implemented, by 01.07.2023  1.3 (3) 69 Community Entry Dialogues have engage youth and other community members to expand dialogue on SDGs related to local needs and aspirations, by 01.07.2023  1.4 (4) Digital skills training on information sharing prepares 150 volunteer Youth leaders for project participation, by 01.01.2022  1.5 (5) 21 Community Level SDGs Mini Projects (CLMPs) have been developed, evaluated, agree upon and implemented in local communities through the YTFs, by 01.07.2023  2.1 (6) An online platform for collaboration is functioning as intended, by 01.09.2021  2.2 (6) At least 120 other regional CSOs have been brought on to the platform within the first year, 01.09.2022  2.3 (7) A Guide on best practices for localizing the SDGs has been developed, by 01.09.2022  2.4 (8) Expanding the network connected to the platform through each partner sharing the guide on best practice with other stakeholders by 01.01.2023  3.1 (9) A number of relevant policy suggestions have been generated, by 01.02.2023  3.2 (10) Medium-scale meetings across partner countries are held with policy-related stakeholders, by 01.03.2023  3.3 (11) Four SDG symposiums are held at the national level in Denmark, Ghana, Zambia and Uganda, by 01.04.2023  3.4 (11) Joint report produced collaboratively and distributed in each partner country, by 01.07.2023  3.5 (12) A project video documentary for information use, by 01.05.2022 | 1.1.1 326 youth have become members of the TYFs  1.1.2 Memorandum of understanding between the YTFs and the partners  1.2 2450 youth from different communities have attended Youth Community Parliaments on a quarterly basis in Ghana and bi-anually in the other two countries. Verified by participation list  1.3.1 A large number of community members have attended the 69 Community Entry Dialogues (aim is 3000 participants). Verified by participation list  1.3.2 Qualitative reports on the outcome of the dialogues have been compiled  1.4.1 50 volunteer youth leaders from each country (150 in all) have attended week long digital skill training  1.4.2 Reports from 3 quarterly follow up online information sessions for the trainees to respond to emerging issues and challenges arising from the usage of digital tools and platforms. Verified by participation list  1.5.1 21 CLMPS chosen for implementation after agreed upon criteria  1.5.2 Each project have their indicators of success established by the YTFs in collaboration with the partners  1.5.3 The aim is for CLMPs to engages at least 2100 people on localizing the SDGs (a 100 people per project)  1.5.4 Project implementation verified by receipts and reporting on results  2.1.1 Platform is up and running, verified by budget, receipts, allocated staff  2.1.2 A sustainability strategy has been formulated  2.2.1 An evaluation of the number of users of the platform by the end of the first year  2.2.2 An evaluation of how they interact with and on the platform  2.2.2 A qualitative report on the network activities of the platform, written in collaboration by all the partners, is done after the first year as well as by end of the project  2.3.1 The guide has been created in collaboration by the partners  2.3.2 Other stakeholders, CSOs, institutions and actors utilize the Guide, verified by qualitative reporting by the partners, survey of use, and number of shares/likes/comments on the platform  2.3.3 The guide has been evaluated a second time for inclusion of knowledge gained from the process of generating policy suggestion, for a final version  2.4.1 Reports on and results from events held by the partners in each of the three country (goal is 1623 people participating)  2.4.2 Combine results and reporting with the report for to Indicator 2.2.2  3.1.1 Policy suggestions on localizing the SDGs have been developed at 25 community meetings (goal is 1110 participants). Note is take on if enough diversity have been achieved in attracting participants for the meetings  3.1.2 Policy suggestions have been generated at the quarterly meetings held by GCRN  3.1.3 Reports on all the policy suggestions and strategies for engaging  3.1.4 Progress reports on lobby and advocacy work at local level  3.2.1 Event reports produced (goal is 1200 participants). Policy makers are reached at all levels of government, verified by their attendance at events and acceptance of dissemination materials  3.2.2 Progress reports on lobby and advocacy work on district level  3.3.1 Event reports produced (goal is 430 participants). Policy makers are reached at all levels of government, verified by their attendance at events and acceptance of dissemination materials  3.3.2 Progress reports on lobby and advocacy work at national level  3.4.1 Report produced  3.4.2 Joint report is printed and distributed. Online likes and shares are counted  3.5 The documentary is produced and used in information work is documented | Young people will be willing and able to participate in voluntary activities  Youth mobilized as YTFs stay involved and mobilize more youth for Youth Parliaments  Momentum will be built by project activities that will motivate more youth to participate over time  The young people involved in the project will stay connected throughout project period and be available to implement Mini Projects  Access to the internet will continue uninhibited  The social media knowledge addressed in the training of volunteer youth leaders will be used by the youth during the project |
| **Activities** | The activities are thoroughly described in the section below the LFA frame.  *(Activities are numbered as in the budget marked by blue background colour)* | | |
| **Inputs** | Funding to cover - travel, venues, accomodations, materials & equipment, cost related to the digital platform, COVID-19 personal protective equipment, project staff, and other assorted implementation expenses  Personnel from CB, CZ, GCRN and Open Space Center  Youth interested in participating in the volunteer work with the YTFs | Budget expenses and project progress verified by receipts, financial reports, activity reports etc. as described in application in regards to monitoring the project  Memorandum of Understanding between partners  Memorandum of Understanding between the partners and YTF youth | Travel from Denmark to Africa will be possible under COVID-19. If not, that monitoring can be done in a satisfactory way from Denmark via digital means of communication |

**Activities -** referring back to the LFA

Activities related to Immediate objective 1:

1. First, the project will facilitate the mobilization of 26 Youth Task Forces (YTFs) across the three partner countries.

23 of these YTFs will be created in Ghana, where each YTF will be connected to a local community radio station. Each task force will be composed of 12 individuals, 6 females and 6 males.

In Zambia, 1 YTF will be created and composed of 20 young people from the slums surrounding Lusaka, where Circus Zambia is working.

In Uganda, 2 YTFs will be created through the Open Space Center and will be implemented across 15 schools located in 3 different districts.

The total number of participants in the YTFs will be 336. The YTFs will be trained as community mobilizers through a week-long local training at each locality.There, each YTF will also decide which SDGs they find most relevant to their local needs. These YTFs will work as an extension arm of the project in their local communities, where they will be responsible for implementing local events and mobilizing local people to participate in

future project events.

1. Next, the project will implement and facilitate Youth Parliaments (YPs) on a quarterly basis in Ghana and biannually in the other two countries across the partner countries. 23 will be held in Ghana, 15 in Uganda and 5 in Zambia. These YPs will be planned and implemented by the 26 YTFs.

The YP sessions will provide an opportunity for the YTFs to mobilize a greater segment of their local communities, increasing the reach of the project and building community support for the localization of the SDGs. The specific topics to be addressed at each YP will be dictated by the needs, interests and passions of the local YTFs.

1. Expanding the reach further, the YTFs will then implement Community Entry Dialogues (CEDs). 46 will be held in Ghana, 15 in Uganda and 5 in Zambia.

The CEDs will be public events, open to society at large. The aim is to reach at least 30 individuals in each locality, with an emphasis on attracting local stakeholders and decision makers. Radio programmes will aim at both primary and secondary target groups.

This activity is geared towards amplifying the project and creating more dialogue and awareness about the SDGs. Again, the specific topics and goals will be decided by the needs of the local YTFs, ensuring a strong sense of ownership of the project’s thematic goals.

1. In light of the growing needs for digital communication and online work triggered by the COVID-19, the project will implement Digital skills training on information sharing for volunteer Youth leaders to understand and properly use the various online tools and platforms for the activities of the project.

One week long digital training session will be implemented in each of the 3 countries targeting 50 young leaders, with a total number of 150 reached. The young leaders targeted will be those who will actively be involved in running the YTF activities and other youth leaders involved in SDGs localization and awareness drives in the local community. The week-long training will also include the crucial aspects of using online platforms including digital security, trustworthiness and risk management based on assumptions and mitigations. After the training sessions, the project will organize 3 quarterly follow up online information sessions for the trainees to respond to emerging issues and challenges arising from the usage of digital tools and platforms including Google docs, Zoom, cloud computing, Facebook and Twitter.

1. The YTFs will then implement 21 Community Level SDGs Mini Projects (CLMPs) aimed at activating direct localization of the SDGs and as a means to amplify the reach of the project. There will be 10 in Ghana, 6 in Uganda and 5 in Zambia.

The CLMPs will be designed to act upon the needs and interests of the local communities as expressed through the previous activities. They will be designed, planned and implemented by young people, and facilitated and evaluated by the young people who compose the YTFs, ensuring a strong sense of ownership of the project's goals.

The CLMPs are a chance for the participants of the YTFs to help put into action the learning they have gained throughout the prior project activities. A call for CLMPs will be designed by the country project partners detailing the application procedure to be followed and criteria for review. In selecting the outstanding CLMPs to be funded, the project partners will constitute a review panel that will look at the innovativeness of the idea, its value for money (cost effectiveness), capacity of YTF to facilitate and help implement the ideas and intended impact in relation to SDGs localization. Each outstanding CLMP will receive a small grant, as well as mentorship from local staff, to facilitate the process and success.

To gain data and knowledge about the mobilization and engagement of local communities around the localization of the SDGs, activities 1-4 have been created. The YTFs are the essential building blocks of this stage of the project as they will be the ones to implement - with guidance - activities 2, 3 and 4. In this way, the project maintains a dynamic, youthful and grounded element due to the fact that local youth will be the frontline of these project activities.

In Ghana, the YTFs will be connected with the local Community Radio Stations that are the result of an ongoing partnership between Crossing Borders and the Ghana Community Radio Network.

In Uganda, YTFs will bring together Open Space Centre’s great network of local mentors who are already engaged in working with youth at local schools through the Wakiso, Kampala & Mukono districts

In Zambia, Circus Zambia will use their local connections to young people to gather the participants for the YTFs.

Activities related to Immediate objective 2:

1. Established a digital platform for collaboration. This activity focuses on getting the platform up and running. The allocation of people from the different partner organisations to oversee the platform as well as division of labour and responsibility are a part of the activity. A sustainability strategy will be formulated, that the platform can continue after the project.

Thematically the platform will be concerned with how to best localize the SDGs across Africa, with each partner organization contributing with knowledge on the relevance of the SDGs for their context. The platform will also maintain a focus on how to localize the SDGs in the context of Covid-19; the experiences of each partner in their previous activity implementation and their specific ways of adapting to the pandemic will constitute a vital part of this cooperation.

The platform will manifestation online in the form of a website and shared communication channels (i.e. Google Drive) and will be initiated at the project kick-off meeting in one of the partner countries. At the kick-off meeting, the structure of the Platform will be finalised including the allocation of staff.

A dialogue will then be started about localizing the SDGs and a plan will be made to bring in at least 120 other regional CSOs onto the platform within the first year, setting the groundwork for activities 9 to 12.

1. With the platform and the knowledge gained from activities under immediate objective 1 (to begin with, and from activities connected to immediate objectives 2 and 3 later in the project as well) as a base, a best practice guide to localizing the SDGs will be made by the partners. Each partner will be responsible for writing parts of the guide based on their experiences. Through this process, the partners will communicate, reflect, and share knowledge and experience, increasing their capacity to work together and building a sense of community along transnational lines.
2. As a means of expanding the network connected to the platform, each partner will share the guide with other stakeholders – local, national and inter/trans-national. Both through online engagement (platform, partners’ websites, SoMe) and in-person formats (such as workshops and events). This step allows the knowledge gained at the transnational level (between the partners) to be shared locally, increasing the transnational connections.

Specifically:

* 1. GCRN will hold a 3-day training built around the content of the guide and will utilize their broad network of radio stations to share the information.
  2. In Uganda, Open Space Centre will hold two 1-day training sessions as well as 15 district-level workshops to promote the guide.
  3. In Zambia, Circus Zambia will use its capacity for performance to create a unique, artistic manifestation of the guide, which will be performed at 10 public engagement events. Circus Zambia will also hold two 1-day training sessions for local stakeholders.

The creation of a platform with guidelines for gathering and sharing useful information around localizing the SDGs will hopefully set the stage for building a wide network. A network that will facilitate the building of synergies, good practices and success stories about localizing the SDGs that can help support activities 10-12 about lobby and advocacy.

Activities related to Immediate Objective 3:

1. The partners will by working through the platform and together with the YTFs, generate a number of relevant policy suggestions based on their shared experience in the project thus far. These policy suggestions will be directly connected to the local community aspirations and needs – including the present needs of adapting to Covid-19 on a local level.

Each partner will collaborate with YTFs on local community events that develop locally generated policy suggestions. The policy suggestions will thus be crafted at both the local and partner/national levels, while also maintaining a transnational element through the sharing of knowledge via the Platform with the other partners and actors active on said platform.

* 1. In Ghana, policy suggestions will be developed via quarterly meetings with Key National and District SDGs Agencies on Tracking of SDGs Data, local YTFs and partners
  2. In Uganda, 15 public, local meetings will be held in schools, bringing together local YTFs and other community stakeholders
  3. In Zambia, 10 public, local meetings will be held in slums and compounds

1. Scaling up from there, a series of larger medium-scale events will be held in each country, bringing together different districts in each country.
   1. In Ghana, there is continuous dissemination of policy suggestions integrated into Community Radio Programmes. This will be through quarterly broadcasts, stakeholder encounters and collaboration with government departments
   2. In Uganda, 15 district level events will be held, with the aim of forming lobby and advocacy spaces for more SDGs supportive frameworks.
   3. In Zambia, five district level meetings will be held with the aim of forming lobby and advocacy spaces for more SDGs supportive frameworks
2. Scaling up even further, all four partners will host a national symposium on SDG localization. These events will try and bring together all of the previous groups formed via project activities as well as a host of local and national stakeholders and decision makers. All information and knowledge will be shared via the Platform. The aim, as in previous activities, will be to promote and deliver the policy suggestions to relevant decision makers. Moreover, the symposium will further provide grounds for developing a joint report on the progress of the SDGs in the participating countries.

This generation of policy suggestions and sharing of them on a local and national basis will help to fulfil Objective 3 - to lobby and advocate for more supportive policy frameworks that will ensure longer term entrenchment of the various SDGs targets at grassroot levels.

1. To create video material for information use, a project documentary will be produced.

**The Development Triangle**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Component** | **Objective** | **Activities** |
| **Capacity Development** | Immediate objective 1 | 1. Training of the Youth Task Forces to gain capacity to execute the activities during the project  2. Trainings and providing learning/capacity building spaces for young people in the different local communities  3. Learning experience gained from implementing the Community Entry Dialogues and the 21 mini projects |
| Immediate objective 2 | 1. Knowledge on the status of SDGs implementation possibilities through shared knowledge  2. Development of utilizable tools and methodologies through the guide  3. Expansion of partner networks and acquaintances both at local, regional and global levels that could enhance their capacity  4. Knowledge and learning gained out of the peer learning sessions that will facilitate the partners to improve the project implementation |
| Immediate objective 3 | 1. Inter-partner learning on how to best lobby for policy  2. Experience, networks and learning gained from lobbying for improved policy frameworks  3. Experience, learning, capacities gained from both national and International symposiums |
| **Advocacy** | Immediate objective 1 | 1. Youth Task Forces advocate within their local communities on the importance of localizing the SDGs  2. Quarterly or bi-annual youth parliaments as breeding grounds for policy lobby advocacy and eventually influence  3. The Community Entry Dialogues and the 21 mini projects as an avenue for mobilizing more awareness around the SDGs and the need for more favorable frameworks |
| Immediate objective 2 | 1. The platform and SDGs best practice guide forming a good background resources for lobbying other stakeholder to pay more attention to the localization of the SDGs as well as for inputs into policy lobby and advocacy  2. Local, regional and global networks as both spaces of doing policy advocacy, creating awareness about the need for better policy provisions for local development, but most importantly as spaces for garnering support to policy lobby  3. Peer meetings and annual project reports forming sources for developing advocacy strategies/messages, but also informing recommendations to policy provisions |
| Immediate objective 3 | 1. Quarterly lobby meetings providing spaces for policy influence  2. Developing of advocacy messages inspired by outcomes from youth parliaments and community engagements  3. National and International SDGs stakeholder symposiums as spaces for lobbying for more favorable local, regional and global policy frameworks for localizing the SDGs. |
| **Strategic deliverables** | Immediate objective 1 | 1. Support to formation and training of Youth Task Forces  2. Support to holding of quarterly youth parliaments in Ghana and biannual in the other two countries and community wide mobilization/reflection events  3. Support to implementing 21 mini projects |
| Immediate objective 2 | 1. Support to develop and run the platform  2. Support to developing and disseminating best practice on localization of the SDGs guide  3. Support network events on localizing SDGs  4. Support to holding of peer meetings across the project |
| Immediate objective 3 | 1. Support to holding of quarterly lobby meetings around policy  2. Support to district lobby and advocacy events  3. Support to implementing national stakeholder SDGs symposiums |

**What possible factors (risks) may hinder or delay fulfilment of the intervention’s objective?**

The outbreak of Covid-19 in 2020 has dramatically altered the possible risk factors considered in this application and, when the first was submitted, this was not the case. The following couple of paragraphs will outline risks that could hinder the project and responses which shall be put forward.

Primarily, movement is reduced by Covid-19 and this could be the case during the project, although to what degree that will be the case is unknown. The project partners have already developed plans including masks and other possible precautions, the possible need for the delivery of food packages and social distancing during the various project activities. There is of course the possibility of a total COVID-19 lockdown during the project, meaning that most of the activities would need to instead be carried out online. However, this could mean that internet connection becomes a problem in order to complete activities properly so for this, partners would need the funding for good internet access. In general, the chances of Covid-19 spreading is higher when activities such as those in this project are carried out. However, by building awareness of social distancing into events and discussions as well as providing sanitizer and masks, we hope to reduce these possibilities.

Admittedly, Crossing Borders has limited knowledge of emergency interventions. However, the three partners have recently dealt with the impact of Covid-19 and how to conduct activities in this new context. Therefore, they will be given the responsibility of devising plans for local activities in relation to COVID. It should also be considered that in the context of the coronavirus and restrictions in society, civil society organizations conducting activities could be looked upon unfavorably as they still encourage people coming together. However, the local presence of the partners will help here, and they must communicate their actions effectively with the community around them.

Separate from Covid-19, our project will still run in a context of risk, but we have inbuilt several ways in which we can mitigate these. As follows:

**In Ghana,** we know that with a handful of three communities surrounding each of the 23 community radios (in all 69 communities), the timeline we are setting for us in this project is short and reaching the unreached is often arduous, an obstacle course. Nevertheless, Community Radio stations teams have great dedication, experience and resourcefulness to overcome this. Again with 23 stations spread across the country, often at great distances from the capital, supporting and monitoring their implementation will not always be straightforward. This will be mitigated by direct mentoring of selected stations with less experience and who may therefore not be able to cope so resourcefully as others. It will also be helped, as has already been experienced by GCRN in the last couple of years, by new friendlier communication technologies such as widespread use of the WhatsApp platform.

Certain sectors, such as the broadcast regulatory authority, the MMDAs and vested interests who would wish to use the airwaves to further marginalize communities, may be discomfited by the intervention. Fortunately, some protection can be found in the Constitution of Ghana and some adherence to the rule of law. GCRN may also have recourse to its allies, as it has had in the past when faced with overt threats. The communities of the stations may also be expected to protect their Community Radio station and stand up for their Right to Communicate, which we always ride on in all our projects.

**In Uganda,** the political tension around the 2021 elections; there is a lot of tension around election related activities as we enter the electoral period with the polling day set for February 2021. Many activities deemed against or competing with the electoral cycle are shut down by the government. To mitigate this, we will align our activities with the electoral cycle to avoid clashes but instead make sure that they are complementary. Clash of program activities with the secondary school calendar and other activities in the local communities where the project will be implemented. To mitigate this, we will try to make sure that our activities align with the school and community activity calendar. In case of clashes we will reschedule the planned activities to jointly agreed schedules with the schools and local communities. Schools and communities might view the program activities as politically driven or motivated and therefore shy away from them. However, we will develop concept notes for all activities with clear objectives and results. Closure of activities due to riots and natural disaster; in case of such situations we will reschedule the activities to new dates and venues.

**In Zambia,** community leaders/ national leaders lack interest in the project. This will be mitigated through early involvement of leaders in the project to get buy-in and continued efforts with informed requests (know what you’re talking about). The youth being intimidated by the huge agenda of the project as opposed to what they are used to i.e. regarding lobbying and advocacy efforts. We will from the onset of the project utilize creative engagement like role play exercises and continued education and support from trainers. Reluctancy of community to take youth efforts seriously due to the issue of seniority. We will mitigate this through early involvement of the community through workshops and public events to get buy in. And showcasing of youth knowledge and skills at the community wide events. Media reluctant to be perceived critical of the government in relation to our lobby and advocacy activities. We will try our best to engage more independently orientated media outlets or online media outlets that do not necessarily succumb to local political pressure.

**The plans regarding monitoring as well as systematization and use of experiences both along the way and at the end of the intervention.**

In relation to project management aspects, while Crossing Borders is the grant applicant and thus responsible towards CISU, we will also set up a project Coordination Committee composed of one person from each partner organization. These together with CB in a peer-to-peer mode follow project progress and discuss the next steps forward. More detailed ToRs will also be developed at the kick-off of the project. In all partner countries, project managers will be assigned who will manage and monitor the activities within their local context. In return, these will be supervised by their local organisations. It is the responsibility of the project managers to ensure the project collaborates with the local organizations’ general strategic frameworks, so it contributes to the organization’s bigger picture. In addition, the project managers will be responsible for the monitoring and updating of the platform, which CB will also monitor until the end of the project, where lasting monitoring will be left to the project partners.

In terms of reporting, the partner organisations will be advised to compile internal quarterly project activity and monitoring reports to evaluate the activities that have taken place in those months. Across these reports, the partnership will be able to keep a constant reflection on how the project is progressing and have time enough to react to aspects that are not desired. The reports will end in suggestions to adjustments, if necessary. The reports will be followed by annual reports from all partners. All reports will be shared with not just Crossing Borders but all partners so the organisations can actively follow the events in the partner countries, as well as having the possibility for giving timely inputs and help in relation to adjustments in activities. Similarly, these shared reports will serve the purpose of inspiring other partners in terms of activities.

As written above, the partnership will set up a monitoring committee comprising one representative from each partner organization to hold the consortium quality in balance and on track. This monitoring committee will communicate through the digital platform. There are also other opportunities for monitoring this project that will be utilized across the two and a half years, including all the peer meetings (including the monitoring trips to Africa by CB) as well as other international events. At each of these events, indicators can be used and reflected upon to ensure that the consortium is doing what it set out to achieve, and that its output is of a certain quality.

The project will also involve two major evaluation phases. One will take place after the first year of project implementation as a midterm evaluation and the second at the end of the two and a half years’ period as a final evaluation of the project. It is planned that while the quarterly monitoring activities will be carried out internally by local project partners, the final evaluation will be jointly carried out by all stakeholders, to ensure joint reflection and input for possible planning changes. The CB project coordinator will also assign an external evaluator to evaluate the project during the final evaluation of the project.

To aid the monitoring and evaluation phases above, several indicators will be developed during the work-planning phase at the kick-off meeting for the various activities so that they feed into the project LFA output indicators. These be collected on activity and reported on a quarterly basis. These could include data such as event attendance and reach statistics, to midterm indicators that will focus on longer period’s progress, as well as final project achievement indicators to show the final impact of the project.

**Phase-out and sustainability**

As mentioned earlier, this project is implemented as a part of already existing institutions that have experience implementing these kinds of events. These partners are also used to complimentary projects coming into their organizations, supporting part of their work over a period and ending at some time as the development financing context dictates. But in all these swings all partners always find a way of adopting parts of the replicable project components and systematizing these within their programming being left with more capacity built than before the project.

The creation of the Youth Task Forces contributes to creating within the local communities a group of youth experts on the SDGs. Moreover, the YTF are voluntary and as they are locally based in their communities, a great resource added to the local project partners’ extension into these communities. Also, engaging young people and local communities on building knowledge around the SDGs and facilitating them to see the importance of backing up on the agenda’s success, give the partners and the local communities more empowerment than limitations. As the focus is on localizing the SDGs, the project will ensure that it do not leave any of the local communities in a compromised situation after they have engaged with this project - be it within the community, toward the government, or predatory business interest, etc. - that will continue after the end of the project.

Moreover, whether the SDGs are met by 2030 or later, any improvements in any of the indicators of this agenda is a desired outcome and thus has the potential to leave these communities in a better state than without such improvements. Finally, mobilizing other stakeholders in relation to immediate objective 2 and creating policy related spaces in immediate objective 3, extends the networks of our partner organizations as well as those of their communities, opening for future collaboration outside the framework of this project.

**How is the intervention envisaged to lead to lasting improvements for the target groups?**

This project’s aspiration is to localize the SDGs. To help the SDGs be taken seriously and be integrated into local plans, can articulate a better world through them (which they indeed promise). That the communities can monitor and hold their leaders/planers accountable for setting mechanisms in place that work towards reaching the SDGs (or even half way).

Reaching this, moving the SDGs from just another foreign project that countries tick-off, to a project that is locally owned and that stakeholders on ground have commitment to work towards and follow-up on, will indeed create a way to bettering/improving the target groups’ livelihoods. This project also aspires to create a guide to best practice on localizing the SDGs, adjustable depending on the context it is being implemented in. Putting into place toolboxes on how to work with the SDGs in local contexts, as well as a compilation of good practices and methodologies to use. Creating knowledge on how the SDGs situation is on the local levels in the countries we are working in (take it as a sample in Sub-Saharan Africa). The digital platform created is intended for lasting improvements to the target groups, seeing as it is a sustainable way of south-to-south knowledge on the localization of the SDGs being shared. If the partner organizations can continue to share such knowledge and influence their local contexts, the situations of the project’s target groups will not only be improved during the project but long after its end.

All these put together create a framework for lasting knowledge, methodologies, networks, connections, joint action etc. that will hopefully bestow lasting improvements.

**How can the strengthening of partners’ and other actors’ capacity be continued when the implementation period expires?**

Internally (among the partners), this project is a routine aspect of our programming. We have, across the years of our work, developed our capacities by coordinating projects and domesticating the most important results we have produced. This will also be the case at the end of this project.

Furthermore, this project will lead to a coherent digital platform and build on the lessons learnt during the implementation period. As a part of the project, we will both extend and build our partnerships on the platform with other stakeholders (CSOs, Businesses, INGOs, Government departments, etc.), who will together make up a strong CSO network of knowledge, consultation, experience sharing and learning.

Finally, the project will produce a guide to good practices and use of resources around implementing SDG projects from a local, grassroots point of view. This will be a resource that we can always fall back on and utilize in capacity growth, even after the end of the project. It will be publicly available and will act in unison with the shared platform – in the form of a Facebook page – to ensure long-lasting and sustainable capacity building on a transnational level.

**4.** **Planned intervention-related information work in Denmark**

The purpose of the information work is to show what CB is doing out in the world and, at the same time, provide the Danish public with the possibility to have information about what is happening in other countries. The SDGs platform serves to connect not just the project partner CSOs, but also to new partners in the SDGs. This expanded network gives our School Service Program the possibility to bring new realities into the Danish school. The target groups of this activity are public schools from 7th grade onwards and are expected to reach about 2000 students annually through our school services. The other key target group is the public which has access to CB Food for Thought and other weekly local events at the Ubuntu House. We also plan to feature the project at Folkemødet 2021 and 2022 to reach the general public and development stakeholders in Denmark, as well as some business communities in Denmark through cooperation with Promentum and CanopyLab.

Means to be used will be: public events, school workshops, the SDGs platform, social media (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn), CB newsletter and Magazine.

**5.** **Supplementary financing**

n/a