**TOWARDS AN INDEPENDENT YOUTH SERVING CSO NETWORK IN KENYA**

**Objective and Relevance**

This project is a collaboration between Forum for International Cooperation (FIC), Youth Alive! Kenya under the Youth Serving Organizations Consortium (YSO) - a network of youth focused and youth serving organizations working both nationally and at community level in Kenya. The project’s overall goal is to expand the civil society democratic space in Kenya by capacity building and strengthening synergies among youth serving civil society organizations that form the YSO consortium. The YSO network is composed of the main youth serving organizations in Kenya who will be working together especially on advocacy initiatives to unify the diverse youth voices through strategic collaboration and partnerships with different stakeholders such as the county governments (department of youths and social services) to ensure implementation of the Public Benefits Organizations (PBO) Act 2013 on enabling environment for work of the Civil Society Organizations in Kenya. The project dubbed Towards an Independent Youth serving CSO network in Kenya will reinforce the structures and operational effectiveness of the YSO network which was formed in 2019 by the leading youth serving CSOs in Kenya and also support to expand the network to have representation across the 47 Counties in Kenya targeting to recruit at-least 20 more CSOs to the YSO network within the project implementation period. Since the network is at formative (16 national CSOs coming together and recruiting more others) not yet legally registered, YAK is the convening partner representing the network in the partnership with FIC for the project implementation. The project will be instrumental to further stabilize the network within the implementation period May - December 2021.

**Background Information and Justification**

According to the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics[[1]](#footnote-1), Kenya has a youth population of 35.7 million people which is about 75.1% of the entire population below the age of 35. Further on, the youth population between ages 18 to 34 stands at 13.7 million people nationally. In urban areas, youth between the ages of 20 to 30 years form the majority of the population while in rural areas, young people below the age of 15 forms the bulk of the population. Considering that a majority of young people are unemployed, they are often viewed as an economic burden and their contribution to the social and economic development of the country ignored. This situation is worsened by an entrenched patriarchal system which has often ignored and even shunned female and young people leadership. In this respect, a high level of organization of the young population is required for a structured and informed engagement for maximum impact and outcome. The young generation, which is dynamic, innovative and creative, has a significant role in the political and socio-economic development of the country. Conversely, the Kenyan youth face frustration over limited economic, social and political opportunities. Low participation and apathy amongst the youth in the electoral and other key governance processes has also contributed to the de-franchising of youth in political matters as they also lack financial capacity and a solid platform to have their issues addressed as most of them only participate by virtue of tokenism.

As a measure to provide a platform for a united youth voice, the Kenya National Youth Council was formed with the support from the government anchored in the ministry of youth and sports. The intended mandate was to champion youth issues. The National Youth Council Act, 2009 was enacted on 31st December 2009, while the president accented to it to become law in 2010. The first NYC elections were held between May 2011 and December, 2012 where 16 youth were elected as members of the Council two from the former eight provinces. The election was designed to start from the sub-location level to give equal opportunity to all Kenyan youth to participate in the creation of the Council.

The council has however been rendered largely ineffective because of political interference and has been hijacked by politicians hell bent on retaining the status quo and silencing a united youth voice in political and development processes in Kenya. The council is characterized by continuous interference of the body by politicians, frequent shift of the council in different ministries as currently it is domiciled at the Ministry of ICT, Innovation and Youth Affairs from the Previous Ministry of Public Service and Gender. The council also lacks national identity or legitimacy at the local levels (from grassroot to counties) as the functions have not been decentralized with key representatives in the sub-counties being individuals elected in 2009 for a period on 2 years whose tenures have since expired. The trade mark wrangles has made it virtually impossible to salvage the institution leading to great frustration by the youth who are meant to be the primary beneficiaries if the council was to serve her mandate. Efforts to revive the National Youth council have not borne fruit since the institution is owned and driven by the government.

With the persisting challenges that have rendered the National Youth Council ineffective, youth serving organizations formed the Youth Serving Organizations (YSO) Consortium in September 2019 with the sole motivation to help reinstate an official voice of the young people, “Sauti Ya Vijana”. From inception the consortium has been able to achieve major milestones in its work through its advocacy work with submission of memos to the national assembly on the proposed guidelines in NYC elections 2020, which sought to exclude majority of youth and youth organizations from participating in the elections, proposal on the model and financing of youth enterprises through the proposed Biashara Fund Bill 2020 (Amalgamation of Youth and Women Funds, and on the draft VAT digital supply regulations,2020 on the digital market place as the youth are majority users of digital platforms for e-commerce as well as COVID-19 impact on their businesses, supported the development of a position paper on the inclusion of Kenyan youth in the democratization processes. The consortium has also been able to harmonize recommendations of fifty Youth Serving Organizations on the management and institutionalization of NYC in a memorandum which was presented to parliament. The Bill is currently in the 3rd reading and 80% of the recommendations have been incorporated. The consortium seeks to unify the diverse youth voices through strategic collaboration and partnerships with different stakeholders to ensure meaningful and inclusive youth participation in crucial processes with a slogan “***Youth Together under One Voice***”.

The objectives of the proposed project align with the primary mission of the YSO network which are to create synergies and augment impact among youth serving organization as well as to strengthen advocacy and innovation among youth serving organizations in Kenya. With the momentum already created by the YSO network the project intervention will have a catalytic effect in strengthening a network by the youth and for the youth that will enhance the rights of the youth towards inclusion and involvement in decision making and development processes.

**Context of Intervention**

**Overview of CSOs and CSO Networks in Kenya**

The Constitution of Kenya 2010 with its guaranteed fundamental rights provides a firm starting point for a continued positive development of Civil Societies in Kenya. Article 55(b) of the Constitution of Kenya postulates that The State shall take measures, including affirmative action programmes, to ensure that the youth—(a) access relevant education and training;(b) have opportunities to associate, be represented and participate in political, social, economic and other spheres of life;(c) access employment; and (d) are protected from harmful cultural practices and exploitation. The constitution also provides a broader space for civil society as a vital cog in the protection of fundamental rights and freedoms; thus within those aspects there is reason for optimism.

Nonetheless, the Civil Society in Kenya which includes the youth organizations and their networks are facing a myriad of challenges that need to be addressed over the coming years if they have to play their role in a more significant, robust and effective manner. Some of these challenges include; **(1) *Fragmentation***; The existence of numerous CSO alliances with varying levels of credibility, agenda and approach has left majority of the sector to be seen as fragmented and pulling their own individual interests. Some networks have been branded as being ‘elitist’ and urban based and those not in touch with the realities of the would-be beneficiaries. Reducing this fragmentation and increasing collaboration, synergy of efforts and interventions as well as coordination of the CSO especially within the youth sector is seen as a critical and overdue process to reconcile their varying needs and approaches **(2) *Credibility*** issues also confront the sector on many fronts. Not only have CSOs networks lost voice as they undercut and have an unhealthy competition among each other, but also individualistic elements have infiltrated the sector with dozens of brief case NGOs established for personal gain. Politicians, religious and ‘terror’ groups have also set up CSO networks and alliances to legitimize their unethical practices ***(3) Tendency to demean other Networks***; generally, there is a tendency of networks to see themselves as legitimate and transparent while questioning the foundation and legitimacy of other networks. This is influenced by the strong sense of competition amongst individual CSO’s and networks. The continued articulation of these issues and dialogue among CSO’s will possibly be a solution for this challenge. (***4)Lack of Funds***: NGO networks are expressing difficulty in finding sufficient, and sustainable funding for their work. Limited resource mobilization skills and donor dependency is a big threat as well. There is also a resounding sense of lack of financial, project and organizational sustainability amongst most CSOs.

With a shrinking donor space influenced by a number of factors including Geo-political characteristics, bringing together CSOs has never been more imperative. Instead of competing for the limited resources, CSOs can unite and work together, wade off personal interests and machinations, synergize and capitalize on their respective strengths to attract resources that can be channeled directly to the network to support the work of the respective sector. The Youth sector, is one that could benefit from such harmony and unity of purpose to attract and retain resources to agitate for the rights of the youth across the country.

**A Fragile Environment**

In the East and horn of Africa region, Kenya is comparatively stable but with a huge risk of running into fragility. Fragility manifests itself in a couple of ways for the Kenyan people:

● Political fragility - More than anything, Kenya’s governance and development is pegged on the five-year election cycles. Since the start of multi-party elections in 1992, Kenya has always faced some kind of political instability during the electioneering period. This is often followed by contests and violence that leads to the overhaul of the election oversight body (Now changed 6 times) During these times, Kenyans face economic hardships due to crime, destruction of property and closure of businesses and institutions. For girls and young women, this period often leads to sexual & gender based violence, teenage pregnancies due to rape and abuse caused by the perpetrators with whom they are forced to stay with.

● Social fragility - Catalysed by political and electioneering periods, the country is often divided on tribal and ethnic lines straining national cohesion. Young women often face the brunt of social conflicts and atrocities which for them mainly manifests in rape and sexual abuse which at times lead to teenage pregnancies. This is true for even other situations, case in point, COVID-19. By April 2nd, just 3 weeks into the pandemic in Kenya, The Chief Justice, David Maraga revealed, sexual offences such as rape and defilement have constituted more than 35% of all reported cases in Kenya. Women who survive these atrocities often have to live with the vivid and terrifying images of rape, war, and death for the rest of their lives. Women also suffer from sexually transmitted diseases, stigmatization, and sometimes unwanted pregnancies. They are faced with the daunting task of keeping families together after displacement, providing food, clothing and shelter in what is in most instances, destroyed infrastructure, for their children and their families. Separately, people living in informal settlements often face inequalities across developmental initiatives in more ways than one i.e. They are often last to receive development services, Lack of public participation in initiatives that involve them and displacement without compensation or contestation due to inaccessibility. For young women and especially those hailing from these low-income communities, such incidents lead to loss of jobs and homes which lead them to despair which could end in sex working or even human trafficking for work.

● Economic fragility - 39% of youth in Kenya are unemployed. In fact, among unemployed Kenyans, youth account for 80%. COVID also doubled the unemployment rate to 10.4% in a span of just 5 months. Further, Rapid urbanization, poor management, and absence of planning has left Kenya’s urban areas with huge backlogs in critical infrastructure. Roughly 60 percent of Kenya’s urban households live in housing that would be defined as a slum. The Digital divide has also increased economic fragility in a world that is increasingly moving towards e-commerce.

**Social Justice & Environmental Sensitivity**

This intervention will support in addressing one of the most pressing issues affecting the youth- representation, inclusion and involvement in decision making processes.

Articles 54, 55 and 56 of the Kenyan Constitution highlights the right of inclusion, representation and participation of youth, PWD and minority groups in political processes and upholding of their rights.

This project will enhance social justice by

- Promoting inclusion through strengthening of the YSO youth networks

- Enhancing political involvement through representation and enactment of legislation that promotes inclusion of youth and other marginalized communities

- Enhance equal opportunities beyond the political spheres

Kenya faces very high environmental inequalities/injustices especially for youth. The situation has been generally worsened by COVID which put a damper on service delivery.

The project will aim to go green by encouraging recycling. The project team will favour the utilization of papers and IEC materials made from recycled materials. They will also be deliberate efforts to discourage printing activities and instead leverage on digital tools and resources for communication and project implementation. The project will also encourage and promote sustainable practices and responsible habits like use of renewable energy for lighting, reduction in wastage of water and other practices that conserve the everyday basic utilities that the project activities will indulge.

**Partnership/Collaborators**

**The Applicant Organization and Partners**

Forum for International Cooperation:FIC has a long experience with implementation of projects in Denmark, Europe and East Africa. Since its foundation, FIC has carried out more than 20 development projects in East Africa together with a wide variety of local partners and stakeholders counting civil society organisations, grassroots, public and governmental institutions and the private sector. FIC’s projects and programmes in Kenya have especially been aimed at addressing labour market challenges where the primary areas of intervention have been focused around 1) improving working conditions and labour rights in cooperation with local trade unions and 2) on creating employment opportunities for young disadvantaged men and women in cooperation with local youth organisations. FIC’s long presence and history of working in Kenya has given our organisation a large network to draw upon for development initiatives. FIC has its headquarters in Copenhagen, a secretariat in Nairobi. Currently FIC is working together with the youth organisation, “Youth Alive! Kenya! in the Decent Work Labour Rights program following a human rights approach. This project offers FIC an opportunity to work in a different way with a consortium of youth serving CSOs in Kenya to widen the CSO democratic space.

Youth Alive!Kenya (YAK) is a national non-governmental organization that was formally registered as a community-based group in April 1999 and an NGO in December 2003. The organization has maintained a strong focus on youth and has become a key player in youth and development. YAK implements programmes that not only empower youth but also gives them a platform to amplify their voice in the development discourse. The organization advocates for and supports the participation of the youth both male and female in decision making and development processes. YAK envisions “A society where young people are empowered to realize their full potential” while her mission is “to promote the wellbeing and inclusion of young people in development through partnerships, capacity building and advocacy”. YAK’s strategic plan 2021-2025 prioritizes its work on three strategic priority areas i.e. Good Governance;-aim to promote good governance and effective participation and inclusion of young people; Economic Empowerment and Livelihood; - goal is to enhance the skills and capacities of young people to promote sustainable and decent livelihoods and; Social Wellbeing and Equity; where we promote the wellbeing and gender equity of young people in the society. Currently, YAK implements its interventions in twelve (12)[[2]](#footnote-2) counties with interventions targeting the youth of up-to 35 years old with special emphasis on women and Persons with Disabilities (PWDs). To achieve impact at scale, YAK has built 12 networks made of ninety-four (94) Member Organization (MOs) in these counties referred to as working groups to influence strong youth participation in governance processes and hold respective county governments accountable for quality service delivery.

The YSO Network- The network brings together the major youth serving organizations operating at national level in Kenya. The current conveners of the YSO consortium are SIASA PLACE and Youth Alive! Kenya. Convening is on an annual rotational basis. The other members of the network include but are not limited to; HAKI AFRICA, **Youth Alive! Kenya**, Youth Agenda, Africa Youth Trust, Tribeless Youth, Action Aid, Footprints for Change, My Leader Kenya, AYLF, Activista PAWA 254, Y-ACT (Youth in Action) and Emerging Leaders Foundation(ELF).The network members mainly focus on Research, capacity development, Civic education and Governance, Networking and Strategic partnerships, Countering Violent Extremism, Sexual Reproductive and Health Rights, legal aid, Youth empowerment and Livelihoods, and policy influencing on human rights and youth engagements. YSO consortium members have been involved in development of key interventions targeting youth empowerment and participation in county and national government processes with some notable successes being**; YAK and Africa Youth Trust (AYT)** through the Decent Work and Labor Rights Program in East Africa –Phase II with funding from FIC supported the development and adoption of Kisumu County Youth Integrated Action Plan 2019-2020 and Mombasa County Youth Policy in supporting framework for civil societies organizations work with county government of Kisumu on youth interventions programs; YAK has also been involved in key successful civic education and devolution capacity trainings targeting the youth and women in various counties in Kenya with notable projects being; (I) Jua Jimbo project; supported by European Union (EU) and Department for International Development (DFID). The project contributed to increased knowledge and capacity of the youths (especially women) on the county governments’ management processes and resulted in enhanced civic participation in their county governance processes and holding the county leaders accountable. The evaluation reported evidence of local ownership (rights holders, Government, and CSOs) and the existence of community accountability structures on public participation in service delivery and accountability. The project directly benefitted 20,000 young men and women in Kisumu, Kakamega, Machakos and Nakuru counties; 36 community based youth organizations/CSOs; 60 young women leaders, 120 county leaders, officials and local leaders; **HAKI AFRICA** through its Swift Action (SWAT) program in coast region , have been able to assist youth and women whose rights have been violated to get justice and ensure the violators face the law and accountability in the national police service in Kenya; **Youth Agenda** with funding from UNDP-Kenya implemented a project dubbed “Wajibika”. The project sought to promote open contracting in the administration of the Covid-19 response funds. It also focused on prudent use of public resources in compliance with Public Finance and Management Act, 2012 and Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Act, 2015. The project led to the development of the Open Contracting Monitoring Toolkit, which will provide a roadmap on how to approach Open Contracting by the government and how citizens can engage in the process in Nairobi County. Youth Agenda has also been supporting in publication and research on youth policies and success stories of youth empowerment; **ELF (Emerging Leaders Foundation-Kenya)** has been instrumental in championing young women participation in leadership processes; **SIASA Place** with support from USAID Kenya and East Africa under their safe guarding democratic space in Kenya (SADES-K) have been conducting community/grassroot sensitization and capacity workshops on increasing youth participation and engagement in political governance processes in Kenya; **Y-ACT** (Youth in Action) is an initiative of Amref Health Africa supported by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation that aims to mentor, support, and increase the capacity of youth advocates to influence youth policy and resource priorities in the areas of gender equality and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) at national, sub-national, and grassroots levels in Kenya and in working in partnership with YAK have able to influence the development of County government of Kakamega Youth Policy, At the regional and international levels, Y-ACT pioneered the Youth for UHC movement that garnered a membership of over 2,000 youth advocates from 43 countries since March 2019; **PAWA 254** Initiative is Kenya’s unique art and activism collaborative hub that innovatively deploys art, media, and community organizing to foster and catalyze creative and community-driven projects for social change, across the country and beyond. Among the creatives who collaborate in the dynamic space are photographers, thespians, dancers, filmmakers, journalists.

From the foregoing the network members have been working together in many ways including in the conducting of joint advocacy initiatives with remarkable results as elaborated in the proposal.

**Partner Roles and responsibilities:**

FIC has the following responsibilities:

* Conduct ongoing coordination and communication with resource partners
* Capacity build the YSO network members in financial/administrative management
* Provide technical support to network members on project management and advocacy
* Provide project planning and management support, administration, financial management and preparation of final project report for CISU
* Grant agreement management in coordination with YAK and the YSO consortium
* Conduct project monitoring and evaluation

YAK has the following responsibilities

Plan and facilitate relevant meetings and activities with in the YSO consortium partners

* + YAK will coordinate the implementation of the project with support from the convening member organizations
	+ Liaise with targeted stakeholders, institutions, county leaders and officials, communities and member organizations for advocacy campaigns
	+ Ensure there is ongoing coordination and communication between the project partners
	+ Develop project technical and financial reports to be submitted and reviewed by FIC.
	+ Cascade capacity building to members of the network organizations as well as to beneficiaries for enhanced sustainability

YSO consortium Members has the following responsibilities

* Support in the implementation of the project areas where they have a strong presence
* Create linkages with government officials and institutions in the respective counties.
* Support in project visibility and communication.
* Mobilization of youth to participate in consortium activities.
* Attend partnership and linkage forums and workshop with partners and donors.
* Support in Monitoring and Evaluation of the project.

**Strengthening collaboration among project partners**

This project will naturally strengthen collaboration because it is about capacity strengthening and building synergy among the partners. Joint advocacy activities towards implementation of the PBO Act will also promote collaboration. YSO partners’ relationship is built upon the shared interest in the youth as a target group for each of the organisations interventions. Since 2019, the network organisations have been in contact through advocacy and other interventions. The interactions and understanding of each organisations work has led to the development of the current intervention and the YSO network has taken on project ownership from the onset

FIC’s partnership with YSO network creates an opportunity to implement interventions with a catalytic effect on one of FIC’s key focus target group, the youth. The YSO network sees an opportunity to strengthen her capacity, benefiting greatly from FIC’s extensive experience in institutional capacity strengthening.

**Relations with other actors**

The backbone of the intervention is the strengthening of partnership among CSOs as well as social partners. The project will enhance relations in the following ways:

- Promote peer learning among the partner CSOs where best practice is shared and the organizations support one another thus enhancing network effectiveness

- The intervention also focuses on rallying the different actors to address youth advocacy issues. This will build the network and deepen solidarity among the partners’ and other actors

- Engaging in the policy arena will involve the partners’ engagement with national and local authorities as well as key stakeholders therefore establishing strong collaboration.

- The different strategies that build upon the roles of the actors will provide opportunities for mutual learning and enhance engagement

- By addressing injustices the partners’ will draw the actors with shared values and interest

- The tiered approach that intervention is anchored on will also ensure accountability

**Project Target Groups**

**i) YSO Network Organizations**- The target group for this project will be the bona-fide YSO network members. The project will strengthen the abilities of the more 16 youth serving CSOs (including the additional partner CSOs that will join the network following the membership recruitment drives) in advocacy and project management enabling them to create synergies among youth serving organizations. The consortium works in 37 Counties of the 47 in Kenya and the recruitment drives will ensure a wider reach.

**ii) 20,000 direct beneficiaries**- The project will reach out directly to the more than 20,000 (10,000 male and 10,000 female) young men and women in the 37 counties the YSO consortium members who form the network organizations. Following the human rights based approach the network will engage the beneficiaries of the member organizations and other target beneficiaries during the advocacy activities

iii) Indirectly, the project will also reach out more than **100,000** (50,000 male and 50,000 female) community member through the community information sessions on the PBO Act 2013 and Constitution of Kenya (Amendment Bill 2020)/Referendum with the use of IEC materials and digital/Social media platforms. The direct beneficiaries will be the young men and women who are socially and economically disadvantaged. These are mostly members of the 16+ national youth serving organizations in the YSO network. There is also approximately 100,000 young men and women who will be reached through online platforms.

iv) Duty bearers- They will be key in the influencing and rallying support towards the intervention as well as implementation of actions and policies*.*

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| **Target Group** | **How they will participate** | **How they will benefit** |
| 16 YSO network member organizations | The 16 YSO member organizations are core implementing partners; They willParticipate in all project activitiesBe involved in capacity strengtheningThey will conduct advocacy activities | They will receive capacity enhancement / gain important skills to enable them to be more effective in serving the youthThey will expand into new networks as result of collaboration |
| Secondary Target Groups | 20,000 project beneficiaries (members of the partner networks)- monthly activities; capacity workshops | Information & Education (on PBO Act, constitution, opportunities) to make informed decisionValue clarification & Attitude transformation sessions  |
| 100,000 community members- social media engagements; IEC outreaches/ materials |
| Government officials and institutions- Advocacy activities/ stakeholder engagement | Support to conduct civic educationBy youth coming together, it’s easier to engage them in structured manner |
| The media- community information activities, advocacy activities, stakeholder engagement | Can easily share information with the target groupIncrease visibility/ easily work with young people |
| Other CSOs- Advocacy activities/ stakeholder engagement | Gain new knowledge and expand networksOpportunities for collaboration and engagement with YSO |

**Involvement in Project Design**

The project target group has been involved from the inception in the design of the project through regular meetings to get their input and ensure stakeholder ownership.

The project partners also held various consultative meetings with the network conveners and members to incorporate their ideas and input into the project document.

The intervention development process involved information collection from the target beneficiaries and stakeholders through research and interviews

**Strategies of the Intervention**

To ensure project effectiveness, the intervention will employ various strategies including:

* Building the network and leverage on the strengthens and experiences of the YSO network member organizations
* Use of digital platforms and tools for information sharing and advocacy
* Use of youth friendly TV and radio platforms alongside social media enabling outreach to the masses. Leverage on youth friendly social media platforms will enable to the project to reach more than 100,000 young women and men within a short period of time.
* There will be community champions to ensure the information reaches all the target group
* Collaboration and engagement of duty bearers including government officials
* Working with other youth networks with grassroot reach

Balancing the Development Triangle - The intervention design aligns advocacy, organisational capacity and strategic deliveries as equal components of the project. In this intervention, this balance manifests itself in a couple of ways:

1. The design of this project builds on the organizational capacity of the partners. However, FIC will seek to strengthen the network’s organizational capacity further to guide its implementation. Strengthened capacity will ensure thorough and strategic planning during implementation
2. The strategic deliveries of this intervention are expand the civil society democratic space in Kenya by capacity building and strengthening synergies among youth serving civil society organizations that form the YSO consortium.
3. In conducting implementation of these strategic deliveries, the partners will build a knowledge base that will guide the advocacy aspect. This ensures that the voice of the target group is included and they are part of the advocacy campaigns. The advocacy will be focus on implementation of the PBO Act 2013.

**Key Project Interventions & Activities**

The project will run for 8 months, starting in May 2021 and end in December 2021. The project aims to strengthen coordination and collaboration among Youth Serving Organizations at both National and County levels with the goal of expanding the democratic space in the civil society in Kenya. The current 12 organizations in the YSO network will focus on advocating for the full implementation of the Public Benefits Organization Act on enhancing enabling environment for civil society organizations.

Inception meetings: The project will take off with inception meetings some done virtually while others as physical meetings. FIC, YAK and representatives from the YSO network will participate in the meetings. The purpose of the inception meetings will be to enhance project ownership among YSO network members and function as the first step in forming a close relationship between all involved partners. The inception meeting will cover the design, , methodology, expected results to be delivered, the roles of each partner, work plan and reporting. These meetings will ensure that all the project partners share the same understanding of the expected results, delivery approaches and strategies, beneficiaries and setting of targets. The project will look to attain 3 main objectives:

1. ***To increase legitimacy and collaboration among members of the YSO Network***

**1.1 Building of profile of network members’ scope and interest;** To stimulate a sense of trust from the general public, governments, private sector and other civil societies as well as tell stories that development partners can support in a sustainable manner, the project will support the consortium members in creating a communication and visibility strategy for the YSO network as well as the project visibility through online platforms, websites and newsletters. There will be information dissemination about the project to other stakeholders and within individual member organizations networks. Profile support to the network members will also contribute in documenting the impact of work done and success realized by the network members in Kenya and globally.

**1.2 Development of the network Memorandum of Understanding /Partnership Agreements for collaborations**; The YSO consortium MOU will be guiding tool for the network in retention and recruitment of new member organizations willing to join the consortium. The MOU will also define the consortium mandate in unifying the diverse youth voices through strategic collaborations and partnerships with different stakeholders to ensure meaningful and inclusive youth participation in county and national government processes. Each partner in the network will be assigned specific roles and an official arrangement made between the member organizations in working together to enhance the democratic space in Kenya. The agreements or MOU among the YSO network members will define clearly the principles of co-operation between member organizations in the joint initiative.

**1.3 Organization Development and Systems strengthening of network**; Through the ODSS of the network, this will involve OCA of member organizations in the consortium in the areas of leadership and system strengthening and processes. This will support in the development of the membership recruitment and retention strategy/ guidelines for YSO consortium. The project will support the network members through organizational development starting with capacity assessment and followed by capacity strengthening towards building a strong, vibrant and effective network. The capacity building will include the development of the YSO network strategic plan that will highlight its vision, mission and values to support the network meet the set objectives in the most efficient manner. This will also include developing membership recruitment and retention strategy/ guidelines through value propositioning. The YSO have different target populations and employ different strategies and approaches in their advocacy and outreach work. Finding a common, binding and synergetic approach to their work is vital as they all serve the same constituency i.e. the Kenyan youth. In addition, developing a strategy that brings on board grass root organization/ Non-Nairobi based YSO is also key to have a national face to its structure, body and spirit. This will be through a five day workshop that will bring together representatives of the YSO and facilitated by FIC and or a relevant consultant to support in the development of these YSO structural documents and strategies.

**1.4 Communication Visibility and branding of network in Website, Social Media Platforms, Newsletters and Publications;** A comprehensive communication and visibility plan will be developed for this project. The purpose of the communication and visibility plan will be to support member organizations through effective awareness creation activities with focus to; (1) Raise awareness among the project beneficiaries and YSO network members to foster public participation in national and county governance processes; (2) Messaging through development and production of attractive, easy-to-read, easy-to-understand materials about this project such as posters, brochures, banners, web updates etc. Materials will be disseminated during public events targeting community and the general public. The communication tools used will include; website, social media, quarterly newsletters to be shared through the respective member networks, display of information on bulletin boards of resource centres, posters, brochures, banners, T shirts, web updates and documentaries. Equipment bought and used in this action will also be branded.

The project will develop a new campaign brand identity that all the YSO network members will rally around that represents the element of individuality and the role each one has to play to actualize change as a collective. In addition, the project will support development of an integrated campaign call-to-action to get disseminate information on the project activities, provide a platform for the youth to express themselves and share input towards a “Youth Declaration” to be launched during the International Youth Day. The Declaration will be centered on peaceful co-existence especially during the upcoming election season and highlight “what the youth want”. The website and branding identity will be utilized in all campaigns with the hallmark being the celebration of the International Youth Day (IYD) and will be available in English and Sheng (Kenyan youth lingo).

**1.5 Marking of the International Youth Day 2021;** International Youth Day (IYD) is an annual celebration across the globe marked on August 12th to recognize and honour the involvement and achievement of young people in governance and developmental issues across all levels of society. It is meant as an opportunity for governments and non-state actors to draw attention to youth issues worldwide by sharing experiences and the challenges that young people face worldwide with an aim to find practical and sustainable solutions to address these challenges.

To mark this day, the YSO Network will be supported by the project to hold workshops, publicity events on both regular and social media as well as meetings involving national and county government officials including with the National Youth Council, Kenya Young Parliamentarians Association, and youth representatives across the country to address the gains and challenges facing young people in Kenya. The YSO Network will utilize the opportunity to launch the Youth Declaration that gathers voices and concerns of the youth across the country.

This will be in line with the theme of the year that is yet to be released but also taking cognizance of the political and socio-economic issues facing the young people in Kenya especially as we gear towards an electioneering period.

1. ***To enhance organizational structures and systems towards a sustainable YSO network***

**2.1 Cluster meeting to enhance corporate governance;** As part of organizational and leadership growth of the YSO Network, the network will quarterly be hosting the cluster meetings between the YSO members and FIC team to discuss on the progress of project implementation (presentation of activity plan and progress reports), The achievements reached by the project and challenges and solutions in terms of project implementation of activities

**2.2 Capacity strengthening of the YSO network on financial management***-* From the project the 12 YSO network members will receive training on financial management.This activity will involve a 3 days workshop to strengthen the capacity of network members in areas of financial administration and accounting for prudent management of resources.

**2.3 County Recruitment drives for new network members:** the project will support the roll out of the developed membership recruitment strategy and guidelines by conducting membership recruitment drives across the country to add to the network reach and consolidate legitimacy by virtue of representation. This will help the YSO network get a national face and increase its membership base and scope of influence. The recruitment drives will primarily target counties where none of the YSO have a network/ presence in. The project will seek to expand the network to have representation across the 47 Counties in Kenya targeting to recruit at-least 20 more CSOs to the YSO network during the project implementation period.

**2.4 Peer learning/Exchange Program;**  As part of peer learning and sustainability of YSO network through partnerships and Linkages, YSO network will seek to collaborate with Danish Youth Council on drawing sustainable ideas for the network growth and learning as well as create partnerships with individual member organizations within the network with the Danish Youth Council. This will be done through a webinar series between the YSOs and the Danish Youth Council. The project will also support peer learning forums for the YSO members to be conducted on a quarterly basis.

**2.5 Resource mobilization / Fund raising strategy developed and implemented**; the project will support the YSO Network to develop a robust resource mobilization strategy that they can utilize to directly attract and compete for funding opportunities as a consortium and diversify their resource base. The Network will also establish a resource mobilization team.Capacity development of resource mobilization strategy and strengthening of member organizations in the network at reinforcing effectiveness in the networks ability to finance their programs beyond the initial funding from CISU. This will be done through a consultative process involving a consultant culminating in a three day workshop with the YSO representatives to validate, adopt and action the resource mobilization strategy geared towards ensuring there is sustainability and growth of the Network.

**2.6 Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) system developed for tracking challenges and success;** the project will install a monitoring and evaluation system that will help the partner network organizations to increase knowledge on the basics of Monitoring and Evaluation principles and methodologies for effective and efficient management of Programmes.This activity will be a 3 days capacity workshop to network member organizations to plan, implement and follow up programs and projects focusing on results and effects rather than activities

1. ***To advocate for implementation of the Public Benefits Organization Act 2013 on enabling environment for work of the CSOs***

**3.1 Develop networks and linkages with stakeholders**: This will involve continuous linkages and networking activities- monthly forums with strategic stakeholders including international, national and local organizations from the stakeholder mapping exercise.

**3.2 Review of gaps and analysis of implementation of the PBO Act 2013:** The network will review any gaps in the PBO Act of 2013 and establish implementation tracker for the Act

**3.3 Lobbying and Advocacy for the implementation of the PBO Act 2013:** The network will develop and implement an advocacy strategy and conduct evidence based advocacy towards the review and/or full implementation of the PBO Act 2013 on enabling environment for work of the CSOs in Kenya.

**3.4. Referendum Sensitization on Constitutional Amendment Bill, 2020;** The project’s overall goal is to expand the civil society democratic space in Kenya by capacity building and strengthening synergies among the youth serving civil society organizations that form the YSO consortium, The project will support sensitization and awareness creation to all its members on the Constitutional Amendment Bill, 2020 on how this will impact in the YSO network and other youth networks and organizations.

**Sustainability**

The integration of the existing community structures, networks within the different consortium members in this project will form vehicles for the sustainability of this project Members of these structures will gain skills to facilitate effective participation and good governance of youth and youth networks in the counties. Youth Alive! Kenya’s Member Organization (MOs) in the counties we work in referred to as County working groups are youth groups that meet to discuss common agendas like civic education entrepreneurship, leadership and empowerment. The groups will continue to meet to discuss their main agendas and also governance issues even after the project has ended.

Using the solidarity linkages built through networking with other non- state actors, community based organisations, stakeholders, county governments, national government agents, private sector and NGOs the YSO consortium will continue to strengthen advocacy for good governance and participation at the community level. The collaboration with governments, county assemblies and other government committees will go on. The identified county leaders and institutions will be encouraged to hold joint public meetings which will continue after Project has ended.

At the partner level, YSO consortium members have built a strong network of over 15,000 youth members who will continue to operate at the grassroots with minimal support. The members have also collaborated at the national level with political leaders, key government ministries and departments and are often included in government activities and meetings, hence lobbying and advocacy activities after the end of the project will continue.

 In addition, the participatory methods employed in this project and emphasize on building of local leaders and communities’ capacities in governance, participatory needs identification and analysis, public policy, lobbying an advocacy are effective and transformative. Transformed opinion leaders, government and county officials and political leaders will continue lobbying for and advocating for good governance that is inclusive. The knowledge, skills, and opportunities for reflection and action imparted by the project will transform people’s behaviours and attitudes, ensuring continuity of the project’s values**,** which will sustain the value people place on good governance. At the individual level, it is expected that youth and youth organizations targeted will have increased levels of participation in governance. On the supply side, the county leaders and officials targeted are expected to have new skills and knowledge in good governance principles and leadership that will eventually transform them to be more transparent, inclusive, and democratic and better leaders. It is expected that these county leaders will develop codes of conducts and document good practices in county governance including participatory county planning with communities.

The identified project structures will actively work and collaborate with the private sector in the target areas to support the project groups. Some of the private companies targeted include Coca cola, Safaricom, KEPSA KCB Foundation, Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA) Kenya Youth Parliamentarians Association (KYPA) (to support youths in, resource/information centres) and other industries at the county level. The various groups and NSAs will also be linked to various government funds available to set up enterprises and group/community activities. All of which will contribute to the sustainability of the action.

The structures and the leaders engaged in this project will act as catalysts for change and processing of ideas from the community level to the county and national level contributing to FIC’s objectives of good governance.

The project will leverage on harnessing the individual capacities of the partner CSOs as a collective thus making the running of the network efficient and effective. The members of the consortium/ network will be bound by commitment orders and Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that will set out the terms and areas of cooperation among them. This commitment from the onset will form part of the basis for a sustainable, symbiotic and synergetic network.

The network, through the project, will seek to increase its legitimacy as a true umbrella body of the “*youth under one voice”* within the civil space by ensuring that there is transparency, openness, understanding, mutual respect and coordination among its members.

The network will also seek to diversify its common funding base by conducting joint (i) Targeted resource mobilization drives, (ii) internal capacity building of the member organizations’ ability to attract funding (iii) leveraging on each other’s strengths including in geographical reach and (iv) engage multi-sectoral interventions targeting government and private sector partnerships

Risk Analysis

Within the program implementation we shall have three levels of risks that may limit the fulfillment of the objectives. The risks will be categorized into `

**High Risks - Medium Risks - Low Risks.**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***Risk Category*** | ***High Risk*** | ***Medium risk*** | ***Low risk*** |
| ***Risk Description*** | *Political Instability - Owing to the 2022 general elections, there is a rise in political activities including the possibilities of a constitutional referendum. Political activities are likely to disrupt the projects activities. The uncertainty caused by these activities also lowers the engagement from some of the key stakeholders especially those in government.* | *Uncertainty created by COVID 19 situation -**this includes interference with plans to convene and lock down measures that could hinder effective implementation of project activities.**Keeping the stakeholders engaged throughout the processes  due to competing activities and initiatives* | *Competition by other implementing partners - There might be the duplication of program activities in the targeted areas.* |
| ***Risk Mitigation*** | *YSO network presence in stakeholder platforms and close collaborations will ensure that we have information beforehand on likely scenarios. To ensure minimal disruption we will have an active online presence and use of online tools.* | *Adaption of Ministry of Health guidelines.**The intervention will design interactive online platforms to ensure continued stakeholder engagement.* | *Mapping of all interventions and harmonisation to complement instead of duplication.* |

**Project Monitoring and Evaluation**

The project will have a Monitoring and Evaluation system, designed to provide a monitoring, evaluation and learning framework which will anchor some of the activities proposed such as mapping, data collection, reporting etc. The framework will inform how the M&E will be done including baseline survey/research, data collection, documentation and reporting. As with other project activities, the framework will leverage on technology to ensure its effectiveness and efficiency. We will utilise open source tools, interactive data visualisation tools, data analytics and other tech supported tools. The M&E will be a continuous process conducted internally and externally. The project will track the outcome and output indicators shared in the results framework. At the end of the project period, there will be a project end term evaluation.

**Project Outcomes (Immediate Objectives)**

Outcome 1: Increased legitimacy and collaboration among members of the YSO Network

Indicators:

1. Number of member organizations within YSO network
2. MOUs signed by members
3. Number of joint initiatives among network members

Outcome 2: Enhanced organizational structures and systems towards a sustainable YSO network

Indicators:

1. Number of policies and procedures developed
2. Resource mobilization strategy developed and implemented
3. Monitoring and evaluation framework

Outcome 3: Implementation of the Public Benefits Organization Act 2013 on enabling environment for work of the CSOs

Indicators:

1. Number of networking dialogue sessions on the PBO Act
2. Number of information activities on the PBO Act
3. Documentation of project initiatives
4. Number of joint advocacy initiatives among YSO network members

**Outputs (expected results) and activities that will contribute to the realization of Outcome 1:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **OUTPUTS** | **ACTIVITIES** | **MEANS OF VERIFICATION** |
| **Output 1.1** *Building of profile of network members’ scope and interest* | Activity 1.1.1 *Brand assessment of the network* Activity 1.1.2: *Workshop to build the profile of the network members*  | * Assessment report
	+ Profiles of network
* Workshop reports,
* Photos
 |
| **Output 1.2***Development of the network Memorandum of Understanding*  | *Activity 1.2.1 Signing of MOUs/ Partnership agreements* | * *MOU/ Partnership agreement*
	+ Photos/ Reports
 |
| **Output 1.3***Organization Development and Systems strengthening of network*  | Activity 1.3.1 Organizational capacity assessment (OCA) for the network organizationsActivity 1.3.2: *Organizational capacity development workshops on systems and structures, governance, project management*Activity 1.3.3: *Leadership training of YSO network* | * OCA report
* Workshop reports
* Number of organizations trained
 |
| **Output 1.4**Communication Visibility and branding of network in Website, Social Media Platforms, Newsletters and Publications | Activity 1.4.1 Purchase of branding and communication software (correl draw)Activity 1.4.2: Content development and social media managementActivity 1.4.3: Writing and dissemination of E-newsletters | * Software purchased
* Social media content calendar
* E-newsletters
 |
| **Output 1.5**Marking of the International Youth Day 2021 (mid-August) | Activity 1.5.1 Mobilization of partners and stakeholdersActivity 1.5.2: Publicity events both physical and online | * List of stakeholders
* Photos and clips
* Online Report for the interactions
 |

**Outputs (expected results) and activities that will contribute to the realization of Outcome 2:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **OUTPUTS** | **ACTIVITIES** | **MEANS OF VERIFICATION** |
| **Output 2.1**Cluster Meetings to enhance corporate governance | Activity 2.1.1 Mobilizing of cluster membersActivity 2.1.2: Conducting cluster meeting | * Minutes form meeting
* Participant list
* Photos
 |
| **Output 2.2** Capacity Strengthening of the YSO network on financial management | Activity 2.2.1 Mobilization of participantsActivity 2.2.2: Procurement of consultantActivity 2.2.3: *Financial management workshop**Activity 2.2.4 Procurement of financial management system* | * Participant list
* RFP, EOI and agreements of consultancy
* Workshop report
* Financial management system eg Quickbooks
 |
| **Output 2.3**County Recruitment Drives | Activity 1.3.1 Procure consultant to devleop recruitment strategyActivity 1.3.2: Implementation of the recruitment strategy | * RFP, EOI and agreements of consultancy
* Recruitment strategy
* Recruitment report
* Photos
 |
| **Output 2.4**Peer learning/Exchange Program | Activity 1.3.1 Create linkage with Danish youth councilActivity 1.3.2: Meetings /forums between YSO network and Danish youth council | * Participant list
* Forums report
 |
| **Output 2.5**Resource mobilization / Fund raising strategy developed and implemented | Activity 2.3. Mobilize participantsActivity 2.3.2 Procure RM consultantActivity 2.3.3 RM workshop | * Participant list
* RFP, EOI and agreements of consultancy
* Workshop report
* Resource mobilization strategy
 |
| **Output 2.6**Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) system developed for tracking challenges and success | Activity 2.3.1 Procurement of M&E systemActivity 2.3.2 Training on M&E  | * M&E system
* Consultancy RFP and EOI
* Workshop report, photos, participant list
 |

**Outputs (expected results) and activities that will contribute to the realization of Outcome 3:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **OUTPUTS** | **ACTIVITIES** | **MEANS OF VERIFICATION** |
| **Output 3.1** Develop networks and linkages with stakeholders | Activity 2.1.1 Stakeholder mappingActivity 2.1.2: Monthly meetings  | * Database of stakeholders
* Minutes of meetings
* Photos, clips
 |
| **Output 3.2**Review of gaps and analysis of implementation of the PBO Act 2013 | Activity 3.2.1 Sensitization meetings on the PBO ActActivity 3.2.2 Review workshop and meetings on the PBO Act | * Sensitization report
* Participant list
* Photos, video clips
* Document tracker
 |
| **Output 3.3**Lobbying and Advocacy for the implementation of the PBO Act 2013 | Activity 3.3.1 Development of advocacy strategyActivity 3.3.2 Lobbying and advocacy activitiesActivity 3.3.3 Follow up on implementation  | * Advocacy strategy
* Photos, video clips
* Tracker report
 |
| **Output 3.4**Referendum Sensitization on Constitutional Amendment Bill, 2020 | Activity 3.4.1 Mobilization of youth and YSO network to participateActivity 3.4.2 Civic educationActivity 3.4.3 Development of youth friendly IEC materials | * Videos, photos
* Curriculum and civic education report
* IEC materials
 |

1. *Kenya Population Census 2019, KNBS* [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. *Kisumu, Machakos, Uasin Gishu, Mombasa, Murang’a, Kakamega, Kirinyaga, Siaya, Nairobi, Kajiado, Kiambu and West Pokot.* [↑](#footnote-ref-2)