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| --- | --- |
| Danish organisation | 100% for Børnene |
| Title of the intervention | HEAR OUR VOICE; Rights Mobilization in the Machakos |
| Partner name(s) | Positive Life Kenya |
| Amount applied for | 802.385 |
| Country(ies) | Kenya |
| Period (# of months) | 12 months |

Development interventions

**To strengthen civil society organising to promote the fulfilment of rights and equal access to resources and participation and to bring about lasting improvements for poor, marginalised and vulnerable target groups.**

**To make partners reach out to, mobilise, and cooperate with the wider society and other actors. This serves to expand partners’ access to resources and financing, while boosting the effect and sustainability of all their actions.**

**please note before writing the application:**

* *NUMBER OF PAGES: The application text must not take up more than 25 pages (Calibri, font size 11, line spacing 1.0, margins: top 3 cm, bottom 3 cm, right 2 cm and left 2 cm). Applications exceeding this length will be rejected.*
* *LANGUAGE: The application text must have been drawn up in cooperation between the local partner(s) and the applicant Danish organisation. Accordingly, there must be a document available in a language of relevance to the local partner. The actual application, however, can only be submitted to CISU in Danish or English.*
* *CONTEXT: Remember that the application will be assessed depending on whether the intervention will take place in a stable or fragile context. Section 2.4 in the Guidelines outlines how to analyse and describe how fragility is expressed in the context. You can also read more on CISUs website (in Danish)* [***www.cisu.dk/nexus***](http://www.cisu.dk/nexus)
* *THE SUSTAINABILITY MODEL: in the sustainability model in section 1.2.7 of the Guidelines you can find inspiration on how to describe your intervention and how to address climate- and environmental sustainability as well as social justice.*

GUIDANCE on submission of applications is available at [**www.cisu.dk/skemaer**](http://www.cisu.dk/skemaer) (the website is presented in Danish, but many documents are also available in English, French and Spanish.)

NB: DELETE THIS GUIDE BOX WHEN YOU ARE READY TO SEND IN YOUR APPLICATION.

1. Objective and relevance (the world around us)

**Long Term impact:**

* To provide women and girls with equal access to voting and representation in political and economic decision-making processes to strengthen political accountability for gender equality and to facilitate women's participation and rights have a strong priority in the agenda on county level and to enable all young people to fully enjoy their sexual and reproductive health rights in productive equal and health societies

**Outcomes before the 2022 General Elections:**

* 1. **Capacity building on Civic education/ voter participation through identification and lived experiences:**To promotemore young women's voter participation in Kenya´s 2022 General elections through training peer educators in civic and voter education and community mobilization.

* 1. **Female youth visibility at election polls in Machakos:**  To ensure that young women and selected staff from PLK have built capacity and gained skills in conflict resolution and mitigation at election polls to create a safe space for women voters by preventing electoral conflicts.

**Outcomes after the 2022 General elections:**

* 1. **Rights mobilization in the Machakos:** To facilitate the rights mobilization among young women in the Machakos in reproductive health issues and promote youth organization and youth led activism through an exchange component where 2 DUF youth delegates visit Nairobi, and 2 young female politicians visit Copenhagen.

* 1. **Accountability on reproductive health policies in Machakos county:** To strengthen the accountability on county level by pursuing specific reproductive health policies to keep the newly elected politicians accountable on the implementation of reproductive health policies.
  2. **5. Sharing of experiences and knowledge:**  To enable the rights mobilization in the Machakos to be part of the larger network of reproductive health youth led organizations in Nairobi

**We found our voice. Now listen to us.  What is the main purpose with the intervention, including challenges that need to be addressed?**

There are 9.2 million adolescents and young people aged 15 – 24 years in Kenya. This is close to 20% of Kenya’s total population. This is a key demography whose health status directly affects the socioeconomic status of the country. Even though we would want this age group to contribute positively to the development of the country, they are instead held back due to poor reproductive health status. Sexual debut is early in teenage life, unprotected sexual activity continues as they transition to adulthood. Their rate of contraceptive use is low translating to high unmet need for contraceptives. PS Kenya has identified this as one of the priority target audiences in dire need of specifically tailor-made interventions which address their unique needs. This is because addressing their Sexual Reproductive Health needs now would significantly improve the current national SRH indicators and guarantee a healthy future generation.

This intervention consolidates and amplifies the results of previous and ongoing CISU financed projects (Journal number 19-2448-Ul-sep and (Journal-number-3731-CSP- SI). Through life skills education on reproductive health and writing poetry. The target group proposed in this intervention found their voice to express how the lack of reproductive health education affects their daily lives. With the 2022 General Elections in August, the time now is opportune to make their voices heard by county politicians, which is what this intervention proposes.

The intervention builds on two target groups: young women, who are engaged in (19-2448-UI- Sep) and young women engaged in (3731-CSP-SI). Both target groups hold potential to influence young women's political participation and activism through their lived experiences in reproductive health. The two target groups also hold the potential to increase accountability in reproductive health politics at county level in the Machakos after the 2022 General Elections.

Therefore, the main purpose of this intervention is twofold. In the pre-election phase, the project will focus on an increased voter participation from young women in Machakos county through peer identification and mobilization. In the post-election phase, the project will focus on the rights mobilization of an emerging youth organization focusing on reproductive health. This will enable the target group, who found their voice in previous CISU intervention to use their voice to keep county politicians accountable for the implementation of reproductive health policies in the Machakos.

To facilitate the establishment of a rights-based organization, this intervention will include an exchange component, where two DUF youth delegates in reproductive health will travel to Kenya. The two DUF delegates are anticipated to inspire the target group on how they can obtain political goals through their voices and rights organizing.  Reproductive health for young women is also a political struggle in Denmark, which is why two young Kenyan politicians from Machakos county will travel to Denmark to meet Danish youth organizations and politicians engaged in reproductive health. Both through 100% for the Children's experiences and from conversations with the two youth delegates from DUF - it is clear that, although circumstances are different in the two contexts, Danes and Kenyans have a lot to learn and share with each other, not only in terms of advocacy and activism, but equally in terms of the emotional issues related to reproductive health in a youth perspective.  Therefore, the reciprocity is high. Finally, the intervention will seek to enable the emerging rights mobilization in the Machakos to be part of a larger network of youth led organizations working with reproductive health, in order for the young women to benefit from existing knowledge and experiences in Nairobi.

**·**

**Describe the context of the intervention**

Although Kenya has attempted to address rising incidents of violence against women by enacting specific laws and policies, including the Matrimonial Causes Act, Sexual Offences Act, Children’s Act, Protection against Domestic Violence Act and Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation Act—all of which are contained in the Constitution of Kenya’s Penal Code, huge challenges have limited the success of these laws and policies. Recent statistics received by the State Department of Gender Affairs are worrying. Speaking in Kiambu County on 25 November 2021, at the national launch of the international campaign 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, Kenya’s cabinet secretary for public service, youth and gender affairs, Sicily Kariuki, noted that the state of gender-based violence in Kenya is shocking.

Five in every 10 women in Kenya in the age bracket 15 to 49 (about 47%) have suffered one or another form of violence. About 40% of men within that same age bracket have also been victims of violence,” said Ms. Kariuki. She added, “According to a survey done by the State Department, five in every 10 women of the ages 15 to 24 believe and accept that men have a right to beat up a woman for one reason or another.” The minister noted that in the last five years, more than 47,000 cases have been reported through the toll-free line that promises justice for victims. These numbers have increased since the 2014 Kenya Demographic and Health Survey, which reported that four in every 10 women in the 15–49 age bracket were victims of violence before their 18th birthday. Physical, sexual and emotional violence are the most common forms of violence experienced by women in Kenya, according to the survey. Other forms include economic abuse.

The National Gender-Based Violence Network, a coalition of over 20 organizations, has raised concerns, especially over the high number of rapes and other forms of sexual violence perpetrated during the election period. The network, coordinated by the National Gender and Equality Commission, has written to the cabinet secretaries for health and interior security, as well as the inspector general of police, demanding that action be taken to protect Kenyan women against violence during 2022 elections.

Machakos County is ranked by the report with most cases of violence against women overall, according to the National Crime Research Centre in its recent report *Gender-Based Violence in Kenya.* The report also notes that many survivors of violence, mainly women, have been left with serious injuries. Others have died. In the backdrop of a grueling electioneering period more women are exposed  to sexual and physical violence.

It is because of the magnitude of gender-based violence including electoral violence against women that this intervention addressed the topic within a very limited resource frame. However, the national context is aligned with a small focus done by PLK, where young voters in the Machakos stated that fear of their safety was one of the main obstacles for them not voting. For an intervention with the aim of strengthening young women's reproductive health, we feel that we must address the female voter security for an enhanced mobilization of female voters, which is why it is captured in the intervention's outcome 2.

**Kenya 2022 General elections: young women in Kenya’s democratic structure**

Kenya’s general elections are scheduled to take place in August 2022 – yet even a year before political instability has been witnessed, the president and his deputy have not been on good terms. Heated legal battles on the proposed building the bridges initiative has divided the country. The months leading up to, and after, elections have been the most violent periods in Kenya’s post-independence history, with thousands killed and hundreds of thousands displaced in election cycles since 2007. The advent of multi-party democracy in Kenya in 1992 led to the ethnicization of politics, with parties coalescing around tribal powerbrokers and an ever-changing political landscape as inter-ethnic alliances were formed and fell apart.  This continues to characterize Kenya’s electoral landscape today. In the absence of parties based on a consistent political ideology, the instrumentalization of tribal identities and manipulation of ethnic grievances remain the primary basis of political mobilization, with the threat of violence – and often its use – hanging over every election cycle.  As Kenya prepares for the 2022 general elections, there are some signs that the ethicized political discourse and its underlying drivers are changing. As in so many countries around the world, this has been driven in part by the experience of COVID and the restrictions on people’s lives that have come with the pandemic, which have exacerbated and highlighted inequalities among Kenya’s citizens. Whether this ushers in a new and less violent form of politics remains to be seen. It may be that the new political dynamics will prove just as divisive and destructive as what came before. Indeed, there are growing fears that, unless the current political discourse is toned down and the nature of electoral processes re-imagined, Kenya will once again descend into violence in the run-up to next year’s elections. This project will seek to address the current political dynamics, identify and inform on conflict drivers and trends – old and new – support young women to be at the center stage of participation as Kenya prepares to go to the polls in the 2022 general election. There are over 35 registered political parties in Kenya, interestingly only 2 parties are headed by women. The main political parties are the Orange Democratic Party, United Democratic Alliance, which are the main political parties. Existing political parties often hinder young women´s participation. As such, this project will encourage Political parties to reform and strengthen their internal structures to increase the number of youth and women party members and decision-makers. It is time that Political parties should develop affirmative-action measures to help level the playing field for young women aspirants in the upcoming elections. Representation of women in Kenya’s Parliament has been and remains minimal. Only 9.8% of the tenth Parliament was comprised of women, and only 20.7% of the eleventh (sitting) Parliament were women. This is the lowest percentage in East Africa. Underrepresentation of women in positions of power is untenable; a country simply cannot progress economically, politically, or socially without half its citizens participating meaningfully in political spheres and critical decision-making processes.

Kenya has the largest economy and highest GDP per capita in East Africa, but it is the only country in the region yet to establish an affirmative action program for gender representation in Parliament. Political representation of [Kenyan](https://www.sidint.net/external.html?link=http://www.parliament.go.ke/) women now stands at 20.7%, Rwanda’s 58%, [Tanzania’s](https://www.sidint.net/external.html?link=http://www.parliament.go.tz/index.php/home/pages/6) 36% [Uganda](https://www.sidint.net/external.html?link=http://www.parliament.go.ug/new/index.php/about-parliament/composition-of-parliament) and Burundi both at 35%.Kenya’s   2010   constitution   introduced   provisions   to   its   constitutional   and   legal framework to support the increased participation of youth and women. Importantly, it mandated that “not more than  two-thirds  of  the  members  of  elective  or  appointive bodies  should  be  of  the  same  gender.”  The new constitution also dedicated seats for women at  the  county  level  and  a  youth seat  in the senate.  Despite these mechanisms, women represent only about nine  percent  of  the  officials  elected  in  2017.  Though multiple mechanisms exist  to  support  and  strengthen  women,  youth and persons with disabilities  political participation, much still needs to be done to increase their engagement. Although Kenya has progressive constitutional obligations to protect and advance youth and women’s participation, government bodies charged with ensuring full compliance, including the parliament and regulatory bodies, have failed to ensure that these obligations are fully achieved.

The Kenyan government has ratified major international treaties that protect youth and women’s political participation.  It has  affirmed  its  commitment  to  the  2010 Constitution that establishes state obligations to advance these special-interest groups’ political   participation   and   includes   specific   affirmative-action   mechanisms   that “not more than two-thirds of the members of elective or appointive bodies should be of the  same  gender,”  among  others.

The Political  Parties  Act,  2011,  and  the  related amendments,  Elections  Act,  2011,  Independent  Electoral  and  Boundaries  Commission Act,   2011,   National   Gender   and   Equality   Commission   Act,   2011,   and   County Government  Act,  2012,  enumerate  mechanisms  and  processes  to  ensure  compliance with the constitutionally mandated participation requirements for youth and women. Similarly, the constitution  requires  that  the  state  creates  mechanisms  to  protect  and advance the rights of youth and creates a limited number of dedicated affirmative-action seats for youth.Political parties are also required to establish mechanisms to support young women party members as candidates and to serve as leaders within the party governance structure. Although parliament, regulatory bodies, and political parties have the responsibility to ensure full compliance with these and other supportive constitutional provisions, they have failed to do so affecting service delivery on Sexual reproductive healh rights (SRHR). The much-needed SRHR components are not adequately funded, monitored and scaled up.

**Machakos County and Mlolongo town slums**

The intervention takes place in Machakos County, which is a stable context. Machakos county is a heavily challenged urban slum area on the outside of Nairobi.  It has a total population of 1,098,584 people. The population of the county is young, with approx. 40 % of the population being below the age of 15. The average number of children per woman is 3.9 in the county. The county HIV prevalence is 5%.

Positive Life Kenya (PLK) works in this area, where the organization runs several rights-based empowerment projects, such as Life skills program in reproductive health in schools, counseling services and economic empowerment programs for marginalized women, weekly house visits to vulnerable community members and a number of female empowerment projects and advocacy projects for women and girls’ rights. The organization's legitimacy is high both among the primary beneficiaries and the community at large.  The project site, Mlolongo town slums is a fragile context. Mlolongo town is located along the busy Mombasa highway – 19 Kilometers from the Capital city of Nairobi. The town is the main stop over for long distance trucks transporting goods and cargo from the port of Mombasa to the greater East Africa countries e.g., Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Rwanda and DRC Congo. Poverty rates in Mlolongo are approx. 61% and continue to be aggravated by pressure on land due to the high population of in-migrants, who come to look for work. Most of the inhabitants in the area are unemployed and those that manage to find work generally earn less than US $2-3 a day selling fruits and vegetables or working as casual unskilled laborers. In the absence of viable income activities, theft, child prostitution, illiteracy and diseases fuel the cycle of poverty. The high demand for sex from the truck drivers facilitate a fast track for women and young teenage girls into commercial sex work to supplement their family’s income. During COVID-19, the adolescent girls living in the area are extremely exposed and vulnerable due to high pressure on the household income.

**Women's political participation in Machakos county**

Lack of educational opportunities including civic education for women is one of the biggest hindrances in political participation in the county. Low education levels deter women from full political participation. This underrepresentation of women in political seats and in decision-making processes at the political party level mean that the policies formulated are not geared towards the political welfare of the women nor facilitates a supportive environment for pro-women policies. This is also the case in Machakos county.

The community’s perception of women is largely negative and as such, women are primarily regarded as mothers to an extent, where this has limited their political participation. The subordination of women at the family level is quite pronounced in Machakos county, where the family structure is patriarchal, and male dominated. Lack of female economic empowerment is also a substantial reason for the low participation. Politics is an expensive affair and to be successful, the aspirants must have financial resources. Large nomination fees are demanded by political parties. This hinders women participation in politics. Gender Bias among financial contributors to politicians in Machakos County is common. The contributors prefer male political aspirants compared to females based on the societal value assumption, that political activities are masculine, whereby male candidates are believed to stand a better chance of winning elections.

Women aspiring for elective office- Machakos County, the period leading up to the 2017 elections renewed the same breadth of issues that have made it difficult to gain office. Compared to 2013, women also faced increased competition for all positions, even at the lowest level. The county assembly seats were the target of fresh interest from established politicians, and an analysis of the few women MCAs (aspirants who lost the elections) revealed that county assembly seats were attracting individuals with a higher level of professionalism, academic achievement, and financial ability than in the past.

In addition, party mergers and coalitions, as well as negotiated democracy – all favored male candidates and narrowed the overall political space for women. Overall, just (4 percent) of the 249 contenders were women, which underlines the need to change this narrative in Machakos County. Although the mere presence of women in political positions does not guarantee any policy outcome, their greater representation in legislatures has been linked to increased legislative focus on health and family policy.

Empowering women politically also has broader effects including sexual reproductive health rights. Women’s political representation and leadership transforms adolescent girls’ career aspirations and educational attainment; increases women’s political interest, knowledge, engagement, aspirations, and overall self-esteem; and improves men’s assessments of women’s ability to govern. Gender gaps in political decision-making also shape the way both women and men see the democracies in which they live, impacting their confidence in the legislative process and trust in government. Overall, the political environment in Machakos County is fragile, the county is inhabited by 41 tribe’s majority being the Kambas, Kikuyu, Luos and the Kisii. Every election period has witnessed tribal hostility, cases of political violence and   internal displacement of women and children. There is an urgent need to ensure support of women aspirants and create a safe environment for young women at the voting polls in the Machakos, so that they are not afraid to come and vote

**The reproductive health situation in the Machakos**

Machakos County has a youthful population with people below age 15 making up 39% of the total population. This youthful population has implications on the County’s health and development agenda, as it puts increasing demands on provision of services including health and education. One of the main areas of concern in Kenya is the sexual and reproductive health (SRHR) of adolescents and the extent to which their SRHR needs are met. In Machakos County, one in four (24%) people are adolescents aged 10-19.

The youth in Machakos face numerous health challenges during their transition to adulthood. These challenges include, among others, limited access to sexual and reproductive health information and services. Unmet SRHR needs among adolescents may contribute to sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including HIV, and unintended pregnancies. Especially adolescent pregnancies have been on the rise during and after Covid 19 in the Machakos. They are often associated with several adverse outcomes, such as miscarriage, unsafe abortion, obstructed labor, and other complications, which can result in long-term morbidity and even death. Additionally, poor sexual and reproductive health outcomes can especially impact the status of young women, as they may face stigma from the community as well as diminished educational and employment opportunities.

As Kenya undergoes rapid urbanization, these strains are increasingly felt in urban populations. In Kenya, adolescents make up a considerable proportion of urban populations, and many of them live in the numerous informal settlements—or slums— like Machakos county. Adolescents living in the slums face a distinct set of challenges as they transition to adulthood in a hostile environment characterized by high levels of unemployment, crime, poor sanitation, substance abuse, poor education facilities, and lack of recreational facilities. While much has been done to provide insights into adolescents’ SRHR outcomes in the country, little attention has been paid to understanding and meeting the SRH challenges and needs specific to adolescents living in resource-poor urban settings, such as the slums of Machakos county.

**Current adolescent and youth sexual and reproductive health and rights policies in Machakos county**

Kenya has favorable policy and legal frameworks that promote adolescent SRH rights. These frameworks include the Constitution (2010), National Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health Policy (2015), National Guidelines for Provision of Adolescent Youth Friendly Services (YFS) in Kenya (2005), the Children Act (2001) and the National Youth Policy (2007) among others.

At the national and district level, the Constitution of Kenya 2010 guarantees the rights of an individual to the highest attainable standard of health, including reproductive health. It underscores the importance of prioritizing the needs of vulnerable and marginalized groups in provision of health care. In addition to the Constitution, Kenya has several Acts of Parliament that seek to promote and protect sexual and reproductive health rights, which include the Sexual Offences Act 2003, the Children’s Act 2001, and Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation Act 2011 among others. There are also a number of policies and strategies being debated at the district parliaments on sexual and reproductive health including the National Reproductive Health Policy, 2007. The National Reproductive Health Strategy 2009-2015. The Adolescent Reproductive Health and Development Policy, 2003; the National Condom Policy and Strategy (2009-2014; the Contraceptive Policy and Strategy (2002-2006); the Contraceptive Commodities Procurement Plan (2003-2006); the Contraceptive Commodities Security Strategy (2007-2012).

These international, national, and regional instruments place an obligation on the politicians to prioritize, respect, protect, and fulfil the sexual and reproductive health rights of all Kenyans by ensuring that necessary legislative laws are passed, that essential services are available, accessible, and acceptable and of good quality. Unfortunately, implementation is weak in Machakos county, which is why this intervention proposes to interact with politicians to table reproductive health bills in County assemblies for adoption and improvements.

As mentioned in the introduction, this intervention builds on target groups from previous CISU financed interventions. It is anticipated that the trained ambassadors will conduct meetings with local chiefs, who will be part of the delegations to meet political parties and members of County assemblies. This and the accountability measurement done by the ambassadors are hoped to ignite Machakos County legislative parliament to prepare bills and motions on selected reproductive health policies for debate, voting and adoption. This is anticipated to be done by the members of the county assemblies, who will in turn hand over the past bills to the National Assembly through their members of parliament for actions at the National level.

* **Describe how this intervention will strengthen civil society organising to advance social justice (realisation of people’s rights, reducing inequality and fighting poverty, participation in decision-making processes, equal access to resources, and just institutions).**

Based on poor reproductive health rights for young women in the Machakos especially post Covid 19. This intervention will strengthen rights mobilization among some of the most vulnerable young women in the county. A substantial part of the target group has dropped out of the educational system due to early pregnancy, which has limited their access to decision making processes. This intervention strengthens these vulnerable women´s capacity to advocate for better reproductive health and for the right to decide over their own bodies. The target group in this intervention will gain insights into equality issues and rights, which will strengthen their rights organization in terms of accountability at county level - and thereby their visibility and inclusion in decision making processes.  As such the intervention sparks conversations on gender, norms and sustainable development, which will enable the target group to address and mobilize their peers in reproductive health issues.

* **What climate- and environmental conditions do the partnership and/or the intervention need to respond to? And how have the partners responded to it? This could be in relation to the conditions of the target groups, the number of flights or the activities of the intervention, and how these affect the environment or climate in the area**.

In Kenya general, access to healthcare during pregnancy, childbirth and the period after birth; access to contraception and information, and a life free from gender-based violence, child marriage all contribute to increasing the resilience of people living in areas vulnerable to climate change. Although the target group in this project is based in an urban slum setting - a substantial part of the young women come from rural areas and were sent to family members in Machakos, due to the early pregnancy. Several areas in rural Kenya are highly affected by climate change. The rise in temperature, extreme droughts and flooding are ruining crops. This makes lives difficult for many farmers and their families - when income disappears, statistics show a substantial raise in domestic violence, forced marriage and early pregnancies. For some of the young women in this intervention - this is also their story. Therefore, an embedded part of the advocacy in reproductive health will link to climate change and its effect on young women.

On a practical note, the youth and their organizations must ‘walk their talk’ and through daily micro actions show that everyone has the responsibility and capability to act for change. Therefore, the project will introduce environmentally friendly solutions when it comes to sorting of waste, reducing the use of plastic etc., as awareness points throughout implementation. Furthermore, the intervention proposes a mapping of youth organizations in the Machakos. In this mapping organizations focusing on climate change and environment will also be included. This is done to put reproductive health on the agenda in environmental organizations and vice versa for a strengthened knowledge base.

1. The partnership/collaborators (our starting point)

100% for the Children (100%) was established in 2008 and started by providing access to basic services like health and education to marginalized children and youth in Kenya. Over the years, the organization has increasingly worked to give children influence in decision-making processes through advocacy and capacity building. 100% has moved from a focus solely on children in difficult circumstances to a strengthened youth perspective, with a focus on empowering young people from marginalized areas to actively shape their societies through youth leadership, capacity building, campaigning, peer-to-peer efforts, etc. In recent years, 100% has aligned its work within the frame of child protection focusing on education, reproductive health and female entrepreneurship.

Positive Life Kenya (PLK)’s offices are located in Machakos County, Mlolongo town. Project activities and support services are fused in the 7 forgotten slums of Mlolongo. They are huge slums with a population of over 3 million people. Initially called Living Positive Mlolongo, the organization began as a Community Based Organization (CBO) in 2010. The organization was renamed to Positive Life Kenya (PLK) in 2015. Today PLK works with a long variety of community empowering and sustaining efforts, where women and girls empowerment play a key role. The organization creates awareness, works with life skills-based programs and supports the local community through communication and evidence-based advocacy on rights issues emerging from the communities. PLK’s vision is to see families living with dignity and free of poverty. PLK´s mission is to break the cycle of poverty by educating and empowering marginalized families to build healthy environments for their children/youth to thrive and create lasting change. PLK builds on years of experience of working with youth skills, increasing reproductive health knowledge among vulnerable women, and providing guidance for youth from the slum areas. Positive Life Kenya predominantly targets implementations in Machakos, Kajiado and Busia counties in Kenya.

**International Centre for Research and Development**

International Centre for Research and Development (ICRD) is a leader in International Development and Research based in Nairobi, Kenya with specialty in training, research, and organization development. All these services target local, regional and international clients who have recognized ICRD as a professional and innovative development partner. ICRD has invested heavily on innovation research, latest technologies and international best practices which have given the organization a cutting edge in utilizing empirical knowledge to capitalize on the value-added solutions. ICRD works closely with the Independent electoral and boundaries commission to train on Civic education and peace building initiatives in Kenya. ICRD is involved through building of political party’s stakeholders and local communities.

ICRD local capability comprises direct contacts with IEBC for project implementation entry, Political parties for, 18 Partner organizations and over 10 professionals who combine their in-depth understanding of regional, national and local politics, social, cultural and economic issues with deep functional and industry knowledge. Our in-depth knowledge and understanding of operating environments in Kenya in 47 Counties enables ICRD to put ICRD in the clients’ shoes and offer truly tailored  Political influence, and Advisory solutions unique to women political challenges.

**The Reproductive Health Network-Kenya**

The Reproductive Health Network Kenya (RHNK) is a not–for- profit organization that was borne out of the need to bring together public and private trained reproductive health providers committed to the provision of comprehensive Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, advocacy, and service provision. The network works to enhance access to reproductive health services for the vulnerable and marginalized population in Kenya including at-risk adolescent, youths and LGBTQ+ groups and contribute to the achievement of SDG 3

RHNK runs a network of trained youth headed by RHNK adolescents and youth program officers. The adolescents and youth network is effective in providing referrals and linkage to services, takes lead in grassroots advocacy in the communities which include peri-urban areas among adolescents and young people supporting the 78% youth population in Kenya. The youth Network provides technical leadership and support to youth led organizations.  The youth network also engages in periodic advocacy campaigns targeting both county and grassroots policymakers and opinion leaders on Adolescent and youth sexual and reproductive health (AYSRHR) implementation and accountability. The youth network supports monitoring the opposition both offline and online.

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

The learnings and the feedback from the target groups in the ‘Breaking the silence’ project (19-2448-UI-Sep) has informed this project. In the Breaking the Silence project, the young women in educational settings found their voice to speak up about reproductive health issues, which are affecting their daily lives. The school club ambassadors from that project are proposed as a target group in this project, because they have expressed an interest in making their voices heard in the upcoming 2022 general elections to better the reproductive health situation for girls in the Machakos. This is an added value to this project, as the girls are already organized in school clubs and therefore have formed a group identity and organization around their work and messages. The protection of vulnerable adolescent girls (20-3200-CSP) and the poetic empowerment of marginalized mothers (21-3731-CSP-SI) have also informed this project. The 15 mothers in the projects will form part of the accountability ambassadors’ team. The stories of these young mothers are important to this project both in terms of voter mobilization and in terms of holding elected politicians accountable, because they have lived experiences with the stigma of early pregnancy. Furthermore, an analogy of poetry written by the young mothers will be published before the start date of this project - and can therefore be used as an advocacy tool towards the newly elected politician at county level.

**· Describe the contributions, roles and responsibilities of the partners and other actors. Justify substantial payroll costs, and if payroll costs are included for the Danish organisation, describe the tasks and why Danish personnel are best positioned to undertake these tasks.**

100% will be responsible for the overall narrative and financial reporting to CISU to this effect there has been allocated ongoing monitoring payroll costs to the Danish personnel, as they are ultimately accountable to CISU. This is a project below 1 million kr - therefore it is 100% staff that will be conducting the monitoring trip to Kenya to which Danish payroll expenses have been added. 1 staff from 100% will give input to the workshop, youth organizing and community action guide, as 100% has solid experiences from similar target groups from other project partners in the topics, which will be presented at the workshop. 100% will be the host for the visit to Copenhagen by 2 female Kenyan politicians with the responsibility of organizing logistics and mission program. For this purpose, Danish payroll costs have been added.

100% will be responsible for the information work to ensure that the project's results are shared among 100% SOME followers (4500). This communication will have to be in Danish for the highest impact. Furthermore, this project collaborates with 2 youth delegates from DUF, it is therefore natural to connect the results and impact stories from this project into their activities, as frequent speakers to Danish youth organizations. Particularly because SRH rights is a priority among Danish youth as well. Furthermore, 100% will be participating in relevant CISU courses to share relevant information with PLK.

PLK will be the Kenyan partner overseeing the intervention implementation and overall financial management in Kenya. PLK will facilitate all the activities in the urban slum environment of Machakos, Nairobi. PLK will be reporting both narrative and financially to 100% on a quarterly basis. The two partners will also conduct monthly zoom meetings. The partners have solid experience in working together on CISU financed projects - and are in contact on a weekly basis on WhatsApp.

ICRD role will be to train in pre-election activities that includes capacity building on Civic education and voter mobilization that incorporates organizing 3-day training workshops on Civic Education and voter mobilization for 35 young female ambassadors in reproductive health policies. In addition, 35 young female ambassadors and 4 selected social workers from PLK will be trained in conflict resolution and 3 selected staff from PLK will be trained in developing a PLK monitoring system to ensure follow-up and the further consolidation of the school club structure into an emerging youth rights organization. ICRD will also lead in mapping of relevant sites to mobilize young women voters, as well as ten select ambassadors will identify hot spots, educational settings and community settings. To promote female youth visibility at election polls in Machakos, ICRD will organize 5-day training workshops in conflict resolution and mitigation and peace building targeting 35 ambassadors and 6 selected staff from PLK and also map electoral gatherings and community meetings where the ambassadors and PLK staff can attend and share the importance of peaceful election through conflict resolution.

RHN will contribute with training in the community action guide with technical leadership, advocacy campaigns targeting both county and grassroots policymakers and opinion leaders on Adolescent and youth sexual and reproductive health and rights services (AYSRHR) implementation and accountability; peer to peer information on services to adolescents and youth in the communities including Machakos and finally community dialogues and outreaches to adolescents and youth. RHN will be responsible for a well implemented training and outcome. An added value in including RHN as a partner in this project is that the organization has a large network of women and girls, human rights defenders, human rights organizations and friends of the sexual and reproductive health sector. This common foundation of knowledge would be very beneficial to the target group.

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

The intervention will strengthen PLK´s collaboration with the county government in the Machakos on reproductive health, which is one of the prioritized thematic areas in the partnership between 100% and PLK.  Over the past year, the partners have increasingly evidenced-based advocacy and data systematization. It is anticipated that this work will be integrated into the collaboration with county government, whereby PLK not only advocates for better reproductive health policies, but also provides duty bearers with feedback from the communities in terms of systematized evidence and data. It is also anticipated that PLK, through the school club structure, will gain experience in supervising and managing and guiding the early stages of what could become a grassroot youth organization focusing on reproductive health - in that sense a natural objective for PLK in this project is to reach out and built relations to likeminded youth organizations in the Machakos.

PLk has been engaged in the Danish Child Protection Network [The Child Protection Network of Denmark – Promoting UN Resolution and Guidelines for Alternative Care of Children](http://childprotectionnetwork.dk/) for 1,5 years participating with case stories in the seminars and in the following consultations with Dr. Chrissie Gayle. This foundation has allowed for the partners to develop the partnership and align an approach based on every child’s right to be protected and cared for, ideally by their own family or in a family like environment. The partners are working to strengthen community-based child protection systems in close partnership with another 100% partner, namely The Association for the Physically Disabled (APDK). The partners promote the ethical and meaningful participation of children/youth in various stages of programming and is addressing discrimination and poverty to reach the most vulnerable children. 100% is in the steering committee of the Danish child protection network - and is guided by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.  The partners are in the process of developing their own Theory of Change. The theory of Change will provide overall strategic guidance for the projects to develop and test evidence-based solutions with a view to scale them up through advocacy and partnership. The partners are putting increasing emphasis on creating a strong evidence base by strengthening monitoring, evaluation, and learning.

The approach proposed in this project to facilitate emerging youth organizations in taking their voices from the community level to county level is a new approach for PLK, which will be tested in this intervention. It is anticipated that it will contribute positively to the rights-based work already done by PLK by strengthening the organization's current capacity in mobilization and activism at county level.

**· Describe how the intervention will contribute to strengthening the partners’ relations to other actors, e.g. authorities, other local, national, and international organisations, networks, alliances, private companies or other financial support.**

The intervention will strengthen PLK´s collaboration with the county government in the Machakos on reproductive health, which is one of the prioritized thematic areas in the partnership between 100% and PLK.  Over the past year, the partners have increasingly evidenced-based advocacy and data systematization. It is anticipated that this work will be integrated into the collaboration with county government, whereby PLK not only advocates for better reproductive health policies, but also provides duty bearers with feedback from the communities in terms of systematized evidence and data. It is also anticipated that PLK, through the school club structure, will gain experience in supervising and managing and guiding the early stages of what could become a grassroot youth organization focusing on reproductive health - in that sense a natural objective for PLK in this project is to reach out and built relations to likeminded youth organizations in the Machakos.

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

**Outcome 1: Capacity building on Civic education/ voter participation through identification and lived experiences.**

The primary target group will be 12 school club ambassadors and 12 digital ambassadors from the Breaking the Silence project (19-2448-UI-Sep). These 24 young ambassadors have participated in Life Skills education on Reproductive Health issues for the past 2 years. This target group can speak on what changes having reproductive health education at school has made for them, in terms of knowing the right to their own bodies. Furthermore, 11 Poetry ambassadors will also form part of the primary target group. These young women have experienced how the lack of access to reproductive health can affect the individual. The 11 poetry ambassadors have all dropped out of school due to early pregnancy. Combined, the target group is   very identifiable to other young women in the Machakos, who are facing the same everyday reproductive health issues - and therefore could be motivated to vote in the hope of getting better reproductive conditions for young women in the Machakos. The target group represents a mix of ethnic tribes and their ages range between 15-20 years old.

The Secondary target group will be 25 young women who have political ambitions and interest in SRH agenda for Machakos county, to advocate for women’s and girls rights in the political space with men in Machakos County. 5 local section chiefs in the Machakos and the broader community through the radio program to reach over 650,000 people including the youth.

**Outcome 2: Female visibility at election polls in Machakos**

The primary target group will be 6 selected social workers from PLK and 12 female ambassadors, who will be trained in conflict resolution, so that they are able to interact with youth at the election polls and mitigate potential conflicts, so that young women voters can feel safe. The PLK staff and ambassadors will have the status as observers. The 6 social workers from PLK will be women (between the age of 25-45) as they will be able use the skills attained in their general work at PLK  for instance when engaging in community dialogue with women's groups.

The secondary target group will be 200,000 young female and male voters at 4 different poll stations. According to statistics in Machakos county an average of 2500 young persons come to vote at every polling station.

**Outcome 3: Rights mobilization in the Machakos.**

The primary target group will be 35 ambassadors. 15 school club ambassadors; 15 Poetry ambassadors and 10 digital ambassadors.  The synergy between the 3 kinds of ambassadors is strong, but they will also be able to speak about reproductive health issues from 3 different perspectives: 1) Reproductive health in schools; 2) Early pregnancy and its impact on the individual and 3) Reproductive health from a digital perspective.  This is important, as they will participate in the adolescent sexual and reproductive health and scientific conference in June 2022. Here they will present live SRHR experiences from Machakos. The target group represents a mix of ethnic tribes and their ages range between 15-20 years old.

The secondary target group will be 50 community leaders, local gatekeepers, church leaders and  5 section chiefs . This target group has ground level intelligence, influence and are respected. The secondary target group also comprises politicians at county level. This will include both men and women who have interest in supporting youth and women on the SRHR agenda.

**Outcome 4: Accountability on reproductive health policies in Machakos county**

The primary target group will be 25 accountability ambassadors (15 school club ambassadors and 10 poetry ambassadors). The 10 poetry ambassadors have been selected, because they have experienced teenage pregnancy and the consequences of being evicted from their household. The feelings of shamefulness emerging from their situation has been beautifully expressed in a poetry collection, which can serve as a strong advocacy tool when engaging with the county politicians and youth divisions of political parties. The 15 school club ambassadors have been selected, because they are trained in speaking in public and have acquired substantial knowledge in reproductive health and rights during the Breaking the Silence project (19-2448-UI-Sep). This knowledge can be used to strengthen and qualify the accountability towards county politicians.

Secondary target group: 15 county politicians (5 males and 10 females between the ages of 21-45 preferably the Akamba tribe- the Country language), 5 political parties; 5 youth divisions of political parties in the Machakos.

**Outcome 5: Sharing of experiences and knowledge:**

The primary target group will be 5 youth organizations working with women's rights, human rights, climate and reproductive health in Machakos county with 2 participating representatives from each organization.   PLK has already reached out to and gotten confirmation from: The Youth Cafe; The Youth Congress and the Reproductive Health Network Kenya.

The secondary target group will be 25 elected women leaders between the ages of 21-50 years old, who will spearhead political and reproductive health demands from the women in Machakos County to the National Parliament for policy influence and enactment of laws.

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

In the pre-election/election phase, the target group will participate directly in getting their peers to vote using their own experiences as a mobilization tool. They will also be directly involved in conflict resolution (if necessary) between their peers at the voting polls to create a safe space for young women. In the post-election phase, the target group will obtain a better understanding on how to make their voices heard in a political context by pursuing policies on county level. This will benefit the target group in terms of their political inclusion and visibility in decision making processes. This intervention also proposes new experiences for the target group and thus new skills sets in rights mobilization, advocacy and accountability, which will benefit the target group beyond this intervention.  This project has been co created with the target group, who has expressed the desire to make their voices heard outside the school and poetry club settings. As such the intervention supports the rights mobilization done by the target group, which in effect will be the foundation of an emerging rights-based youth organization composed of the target group thus giving them a stronger voice.

Community leaders will participate in this intervention by sharing information from the county meetings with the ambassadors and politicians on the implementation of reproductive rights policies in the Machakos. This information will be shared with 50 other community leaders and gatekeepers.   Community leaders will benefit from this intervention by creating good relations with the newly elected county politicians.

County politicians will participate by listening to the grounded truth from the ambassadors - and then in co- creation with the ambassador try and obtain political changes by being advocates for a stronger implementation of reproductive health policies in Machakos county. They will benefit from this intervention by creating good relations with their constituency - and in particularly to include the ambassadors in the decisions making process, which is likely to create a larger legitimacy among the youth population in the Machakos, who are the majority.

**· Describe how the target groups and relevant actors have been involved in the development of the intervention as well as the partners’ legitimacy to act as champions of the target groups’ cause.**

This intervention has been co-created with the target groups themselves, as a natural continuation of the work already carried out. The life-skills education on reproductive health in selected schools in the past 2 years has enabled young women to find their voice and speak out on how the lack of reproductive health education in schools affect them in their daily lives (journal number 19-2448-UI-Sep). Now they want their voices to be heard by county politicians to push for change and keep them accountable for implementing reproductive health policies. The target groups gave input into the activities proposed in this intervention - and expressed a strong desire to continue their work as a united group to better advocate for their rights.

Partners in this project are legitimately eligible with necessary implementation capacities to ensure the success of this project. Strategically, PLK will use 10 years of presence in Mololongo in the Machakos to build on the” bottom up” approach (using the local community, existing trained personnel/ambassadors, strengthened mapped up stakeholders partnerships, political influence at the County/ National structures). This will offer a seamless intervention plan. 100% has been in partnership with PLK for several years and together the 2 partners have successfully implemented several projects in  Machakos.  100% has the geographical intelligence, deeply delved into the needs of Machakos County inhabitants - technical designs of interventions and resource prioritization experience, which will ensure successful all round implementation.  Furthermore, the organization has human resources with substantial expertise in working in international development with a specific focus on Africa with more than 10 years’ operating in Kenya.  Specifically, the organization has specialized knowledge in peer to peer work, ambassador/role model rights based approaches, community involvement and participation, support groups/community groups and mentorship.

ICRD is a partner organization  offering strategic advisory services to Positive Life Kenya, this strategic partnership has resulted in PLKs strengthened implementation structures. ICRD will ensure all trainings are conducted, activities monitored and evaluated at scale. ICRD will track, mitigate issues around challenges, risk management and documentation/publishing of data.

RHNK is a new strategic partner to PLK. The organization brings solid knowledge on youth perspectives and activism in relation to reproductive health.  The organization runs a network of trained adolescents and youth headed by RHNK adolescents and youth program officers. The adolescents and youth network is effective in providing information, referrals and linkage to services, and takes lead in grassroots advocacy in the communities which include peri-urban areas among adolescents and young people supporting the 78% youth population in Kenya. The RHNK youth network specializes in advocacy campaigns targeting both county and grassroots policymakers and opinion leaders on reproductive health implementation and accountability. The partner brings a high level expertise in adolescent and youth sexual and reproductive health and rights  and find their legitimacy by being a youth-led organization, which can also serve as an inspiration for the rights organisation in the Machakos.

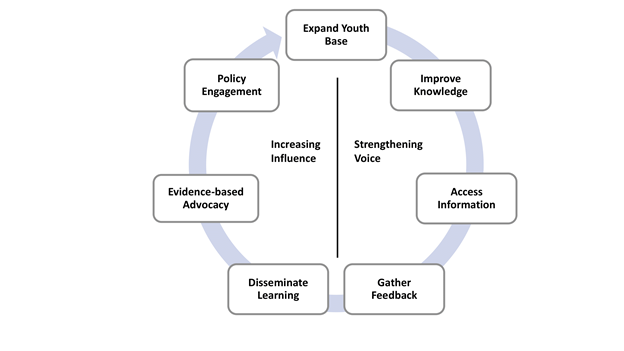
· **Describe the strategy of the intervention – how and with what methods will the intervention be implemented so that it leads to the objectives, including how the intervention balances between the elements of the Development Triangle.**

**Strategy of the intervention**

The project is premised on the theory of change that, if young women are equipped and empowered with the skills to mobilize, monitor, and contribute to addressing the impact, the lack of reproductive health measure in the Machakos, has had on their lives, they will be able to mobilize their peers to vote and get them engaged for their right to better reproductive health education and services in the Machakos. Through this process, the young women will take the lead in becoming active citizens and agents of social change.

To do this successfully, young people must deploy their skills and capacities in a systematic way to increase their support base, improve their knowledge, monitor, and access information, gather feedback, disseminate learning, undertake evidence-based advocacy, and engage in policy arenas, as outlined in the diagram below. This will result in a two-part outcome of increasing influence and strengthening voices. Strengthening voices focuses on building the capacity of youth groups so that they can take the right steps to being heard, while the increasing influence focuses on strengthening the capacity of youth groups to engage in policy development and political processes with an accountability focus.

This unique integrated youth-led methodology is expected to build coherence and balance between capacity building, advocacy, networking and strategic deliveries - thus representing the development triangle in that a line of training leads to the necessary capacity building that provides accountability and evidence-based advocacy activities. The diagram shows the logic.

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**Expected results**

**On the individual level:** Individuals develop increased agency and voice; increase their networks.

in their local community especially county government and develop leadership capacity. To ensure these outcomes, a PLK monitoring system has been put in place to ensure follow-up on the training, the work, and the promotion of shared ownership between the organizations in the quality of reproductive health agenda.

**On the organizational level:** The planned activities, mentoring and specific capacity l.

strengthening initiatives will generate: 1) Existing target group to have strengthened their

organizational agency and voice to speak on behalf of their peers and 2) The emergence and mobilization of rights in the Machakos with the aim to to improve reproductive health.

**On the community level:** Changed attitudes towards young people and their ability to perform their roles as changemakers, in a stronger and more cohesive youth community, which is able to unite around shared issues.

**Changes at policy level:** Specific critical reproductive health  policies on county level in the Machakos

have received increased attention due to the county level work done by the accountability ambassadors, as newly elected duty bearers take action in response to young people’s accountability, rights mobilization and advocacy.

**· Describe the objectives, activities, expected results and indicators (or similar ways of formulating criteria of success) of the intervention.**

PLK will conduct introductory meetings with the community stakeholders and the county politicians and the ambassadors to lay a strong foundation for the intervention’s actual implementation.

**Outcomes before the 2022 General Elections:**

1. **Capacity building on Civic education and voter mobilization through identification and lived experiences:**

Indicators:

* 1. A 5% increase in young women participating in the 2022 Elections in the Machakos (MoV: county statistics)
  2. A 5% decrease in cases reporting on electoral violence against (young) women (Mov: county statistics)

1. **Female youth visibility at election polls in Machakos:**

Indicators:

* 1. Less electoral tension among youth at the voting polls (Mov. Status reports from the electoral observers)
  2. Youth approaches electoral observers to mitigate conflicts (Mov.status reports from the electoral observers)

**Outcome after the 2022 General elections.**

1. **Rights mobilization in the Machakos**

Indicators:

* 1. An increased rights mobilization of youth, who want to advocate and act for better reproductive health in the Machakos (Mov. Baseline study to track mobilation done by PLK )
  2. PLK has ensured the political support to the project from the county representatives, the community leaders and other relevant gatekeepers (Mov. Meeting minutes)
  3. The participants from Denmark and Kenya are eager to listen, learn and share their experience (Mov. mission report)
  4. Increase in the rights mobilization among youth as the local organization gets stronger and more structured (Mov. Baseline numbers done by PLK)
  5. A greater inclusiveness of the ambassadors at county, as politicians acknowledge the importance of youth in making policies effective and relevant in the community (Mov. meeting minutes and base studies covering the policy work achieved over a 12-month period.

1. **Accountability on reproductive health policies in Machakos county:**

Indicators:

* 1. The ambassadors are allowed the space to keep the county politicians accountable (Mov. meeting invites, meeting minutes over a 12-month period)
  2. The individual action plans drafted between the ambassadors and county politicians are followedstated objectives are met (Mov. Monitorering of the actions plan by PLK over a 12 month period

1. **Sharing of experiences and knowledge:**

Indicators:

* 1. Youth organizations share data, impact stories for synergy effects (Mov SoMe platforms)
  2. More young women in the Machakos use the NenaNaBinti hotline for peer to peer SRHR discussions  (Mov. User survey on the hotline conducted by Reproductive Health Network)
  3. The section chiefs are supportive of the ambassador's work and continue to provide them with legitimacy in the community ( Mov. Follow-up conversations with the section chiefs done by PLK)

**Pre-election activities and outputs**

**Outcome 1: Capacity building on Civic education and voter mobilization through identification and lived experiences:**

Activity 1: Training workshop on Civic Education and voter mobilization

35 young female ambassadors will receive a 3-day training in voter mobilization. The ambassadors will be trained in using their personal experiences as inspirational stories for hope and change in reproductive health policies to their peers in the Machakos. This is aimed at empowering young women to understand their rights to vote, diminishing voter apathy - and getting more young women to register to vote.

35 young female ambassadors and 4 selected social workers from PLK will be trained in conflict resolution. This will be used for conflict mitigation among youth at 4 voting polls in the Machakos.

3 selected staff from PLK will be trained in developing a PLK monitoring system to ensure follow-up on the rights mobilization into an emerging youth rights organization.

**Expected Output**: The ambassadors are able to use the learned skills in peer to peer identification to mobilize more  women  to voter registrate.

Activity 2: Mapping of relevant sites to mobilize young women voters

In co-creation, PLK and the 10 of the selected ambassadors will identify hot spots, educational settings and meetings with 5 section chiefs to reach women voters.  This also includes radio programmes , where the ambassadors shared their stories. These will serve as the foundation for the voter mobilization strategy through peer  identification.

**Expected Output:** Make more women participate and vote in the 2022 General Election.

**Outcome 2: Female youth visibility at election polls in Machakos**

Activity 1: Training workshop  in conflict resolution and mitigation and peace building

35 ambassadors and 6 selected staff from PLK will receive a 5-day training in conflict resolution and mitigation. The participants will use this knowledge at the voting polls, where they will be visible to the voters as election observers.

**Expected Output**: The target group will be able to mitigate potential group and interpersonal conflicts at the polls.

Activity 2: Mapping of electoral gatherings and community meetings.

PLK will identify a plural representation of opposing political gatherings and community meetings in the Machakos, where the ambassadors and PLK staff can attend and share the importance of peaceful election through conflict resolution.

**Expected Output:** A safer voter environment for young women at the voting polls

**Outcome 3: Rights mobilization in the Machakos**

Activity 1: Youth organizing and community action guide

A Youth Organizing and Community Action Guide will serve as a do-it-yourself manual outlining practical steps that the target group can follow in mobilizing their peers, organizing their accountability process on reproductive health at county level and communicating with community stakeholders and other youth organizations. This training will be provided by The Reproductive Health Network-Kenya (RHNK), which is a not–profit organization. The network works to enhance access to reproductive health services for the vulnerable and marginalized population in Kenya including at-risk adolescents and youth. 35 ambassadors and 3 PLK staff will participate in the training. PLK staff will participate, so that they are equipped to supervise the process

**Expected output:** 1) A finalized action guide written by the target group themselves to guide  them in their broader rights mobilization work; 2) PLK staff is equipped to support and supervise the target group in making their voice heard by county politicians

Activity 2: Participation in the Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Scientific Conference in June 2022

Selected ambassadors will participate in the Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Scientific Conference schduled for June 2022. The conference is held on an annual basis to provide a platform for SRHR stakeholders, actors, champions and young people to share experiences and learn new information on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights from experts. The 2022 conference theme is ” Advancing access to Adolescents and Youth Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in a pandemic” and will focus on bringing together, Policy Makers, Service Providers, experts, Grassroots Women and Girls, Men, Sexual and Gender Minority Groups, like-minded civil society organizations and young people from the National, Regional and International community.

**Expected output:** The ambassadors share their lived experiences and visualize the impact the lack of reproductive health mechanisms in Machakos can have on young women's daily lives to a larger stakeholder group.

Activity 3:  Pre-visit zoom calls between the youth delegates from DUF and the 2 female politicians from Machakos The 4 participants in this exchange component will be updated continuously on project results, as it is arranged that they will engage in zoom meetings before the exchange visit. The zoom meeting will be under the supervision of 100% and PLK to allow for the partners together to draft a program for the visit, which is embedded in the target groups (emerging youth organization) wishes and ideas. There are no costs attached to this activity.

**Expected output:** To organize a meaningful and effective visit in Kenya and Denmark with high impact for the target group

Activity 4; Visit in Nairobi by DUF youth delegates Anne Sophie Lyskjær Noer and Signe Gertz Jensen from Denmark .

Anne Sophie Lyskjær Noer and Signe Gertz Jensen will travel to Kenya in their capacity as DUF  youth delegates in reproductive health and rights. In their capacity as youth delegates their role is to  represent the Danish youth in the Danish delegations to the UN and other multilateral fora and to bring the voices of youth to be heard in international decision-making processes. In addition to this role, the youth delegates are also active agents in communicating and embedding global agendas among the Danish youth as well as interacting with Dansk Ungdoms Fællesråd (DUF) member organizations and other children- and youth organizations working with or within these themes.  Anne Sophie Lyskjær Noer and Signe Gertz Jensen both aim to globally strengthen girls' opportunities and women's authority, while also combating gender-based violence, child marriage and early marriage. Both are also strong advocates for the inclusion of young women in the decision-making process. They believe that we in Denmark also have a long way to go on gender equality, when it comes to real gender equality. It is therefore their common goal to promote women's equal rights and equal representation.

With their combined experiences from DUF, the youth delegates will be able to substantially contribute and give input to the target group´s youth driven organization in this intervention, but also inform and share knowledge with other youth organizations (the ones mapped out by this project) in the Machakos. The youth delegates are experienced in participation, dialog, voluntarisme and influence in youth driven organizations on which they will engage with various stakeholders in Kenya.

**Expected output:** Achievement of stronger local rights organization by the target group due to the visit from the 2 DUF delegates.

Activity 5: Visit in Copenhagen by 2 female politicians from Kenya.

Honorable Angela Munsyasya is the incumbent Member of County Assembly of Mbiuni ward in Machakos county. From 2015- 2018, she was a board member at Positive Life Kenya. Angela has worked with youth and young women supporting teenage pregnant girls, girls rescued from harmful practices situations and rape for over 15 years. The has been pushing for the implementation of two third gender rule and SRHR in machakos county for the past 5 years across political divides.. From 2015- 2018, she was a board member at Positive Life Kenya, which is a positive add on, as it enhances the accessibility for the project's target group.  She is also very active on SoMe platforms, which is very identifiable for the target group.

Magdalene Ndawa is a women aspirant for Machakos County she is a very strong advocate for funding from The National Government Affirmative Action Fund (NGAAF)  to prioritize women and youth empowerment programmes through the National Government Affirmative Action Fund (NGAAF). In current newspapers, she has also been a strong voice to young people urging them to get their identity cards so that they can vote for the elections. She appreciates that lack of reproductive health is closely linked to the economic empowerment of women - and she has been an advocate for a nurturing and supportive community for pregnant adolescent girls.

In Copenhagen, the 2 women will visit DUF and selected youth organizations under the DUF umbrella, Danish politicians, who are inspired by and have created political results with youth-led organizations, youth divisions of political parties etc.

**Expected output:**  A stronger voice for the target group and other youth-led organizations, as county politicians include them in decision-making processes in Machakos to obtain political goals in reproductive health.

**Outcome 4: Youth-led monitoring and accountability on reproductive health policies in Machakos county:**

Activity 1: Accountability ambassadors are present at county government meeting regarding the planning, budgeting and implementation of county budgets

The accountability ambassadors will ensure that the politicians are obligated to fulfill SRHR progressively depending on the available resources. The project ambassadors will work closely with female county politicians (the project has already identified two as stated in this application) to demonstrate ``measurable progress towards a better realization of the SRHR policies and to restrain from adopting ‘regressive measures.

**Expected output:** The ambassadors have higher political inclusion and are therefore able to hold county politicians accountable by evaluating the results the politicians are delivering on reproductive health.

Activity 2: The accountability ambassadors meet quarterly with the newly elected politicians to follow-up on reproductive health policies

The ambassadors will develop individual actions-plans with the newly elected politicians to further obligate the politicians to fulfil those SRHR rights that require immediate realisation such as freedom from discrimination and freedom to decide over one’s own body.  The section chiefs will also be present at these meetings. They have strong grounded intelligence and will be able to provide valuable input to the proces. The 2 DUF delegates will also be present at these meetings, when they visit Nairobi.

**Expected output**: Increased space for the ambassadors to act as agents of change by making their voice heard by stakeholders than hold the possibility to make policy implementation in reproductive health policies

**Outcome 5: Sharing of experiences and knowledge:**

Activity 1: Mapping of youth organizations working with reproductive health and related issues in the Machakos

In co-creation with PLK and RHNK, a mapping of likeminded small youth organizations in the Machakos will be developed. This will serve as an important platform for future consolidated advocacy work/platforms, as organizations will be able to link their issues on their respective agendas.

**Expected output:** The knowledge base and co creation synergies between youth organizations have increased

Activity 2: Engagement in the youth network.

10 ambassadors engage in The Youth Network on a WhatsApp platform in monthly peer to peer SRHR discussions. The ambassadors will also promote the hotline #NenaNaBinti (a hotline for youth challenged by SRHR issues) through sharing on digital media and offering referrals to the hotline.

**Expected output**: 1) The ambassadors are part of a larger SRHR youth led network, which will strengthen their knowledge 2) Young women in the Machakos are made aware and use the hotline

Activity 3. Meetings with the section chiefs in the Machakos

4 meetings with 5 section chiefs to inform them on the broader accountability and rights mobilization work done at county level on reproductive health policies - to ensure their continued inclusiveness and support.

**Expected output:** The chiefs support the ambassador´s work and are open to continuously accompany them to county meetings to promote better reproductive health for young women - even after the intervention ends. 

**· Describe how the intervention contributes to establishing sustainable and lasting improvements for poor, marginalized and vulnerable target groups and strengthening the partners’ capacities after the intervention period.**

Contributing to sustainable improvements in reproductive health for the target group is the ultimate goal for this intervention. Therefore, the project is designed to advocate for increased accountability in the aftermath of the 2022 General Elections in Kenya. The partners in this project have solid experiences from other CISU financed interventions that reproductive health issues such as early pregnancy and sexual tramsmitted disases are core concerns for the target group. This intervention will follow access to essential reproductive health rights policies at county level and engage in a continuous dialogue with the newly elected politicians in Machakos county. With the newly elected politicians, there is a window of opportunity, which is why advocacy strategy is therefore aimed at holding the county government accountable to previous commitments to reproductive health policies on county level.

Capacity building of PLK

Social workers from PLK will be trained in conflict resolution. This will be a skill that can be used continuously in PLK´s daily work, where social workers often have to mitigate interpersonal and group conflicts in the community. PLK will equally be trained in a monitoring system for the effective follow up on the emerging rights-based youth organization. This adds a new set of competencies to PLK´s staff, which they will be able to use in work with other target groups and interventions.

Capacity building of target group

The target group in this intervention has been given a number of skills and competencies on how they can make their voices heard in rights mobilization, advocacy and accountability. These will remain useful after this intervention ends. Furthermore, the target group has obtained access to a platform of likeminded organizations through the Reproductive Health network, which means that they will have sustainable access to knowledge and ressourcer beyond this intervention.

Rights mobilization

It was an added value to this project, that the target group already were organized in school clubs; a poetry club and as digital ambassadors with an already formed group identity and organization around their work and messages. The shared identity that the target group will find in their common quest to improve reproductive health for young women in the Machakos will remain after this intervention ends. Previous CISU financed projects speak to that fact, as most target groups continue to meet and advocate for their cause.

**Risk management**

The risks related to having the political leaders not prioritizing the reproductive health pursuance of policies are medium rated. Some male politicians might be reluctant to support motions and debates on SHRH matters due to cultural and personal reasons. To mitigate this, the project will involve male politicians at all levels of implementations, partnering with male participants will leverage political good will. Sustainably this will contribute to continuous conversations and implementation of SRHR actions after the completion of the project. The project will work within the established frameworks and the ongoing reforms in the education/health sectors on county level. The frameworks recognize the importance of SRHR for marginalized communities and as such, the project will work with mapped up stakeholders to forecast timeframes for policy actions.

PLK has good relations with the county.

**Describe the plans to monitor, collect and use experiences along the way and at the end of the intervention.**

This project is based on the activism of the youth themselves, trusting that they can and will do what fits best to their context. The cycle of capacity building, action planning, accountability and then evaluating is part of the core activities, carrying learning potential on its own, if adequately supported. The PLK team will conduct ongoing monitoring of all project activities, aimed at facilitating identification and resolution of problems; providing the basis for technical and financial accountability; ensuring the project is running on schedule and ultimately enhancing project performance based on set indicators in the project.

1. Intervention-related information work in Denmark

The intervention-related information work in Denmark sets out to:

* Raise awareness about SDG 5 and SRHR among Danish target groups
* Share personal stories from the accountability ambassadors and poetry ambassadors
* Share perspectives and experiences from the exchange between the 2 DUF delegates and 2 female politicians

All of the 100% for the Children’s projects includes a Danish component sharing information about our interventions in the South to Danish members, followers, donors, etc.. Launching of this intervention, progress and final results will be shared on both social media, 100% website and in newsletters as an ongoing activity during the whole project period (4500 followers).  For this intervention a special focus will be placed on SDG 5: Gender Equality and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights emphasizing that all girls and women no matter where they are should have access to equal opportunities. Information about SDG 5, the reality of life for young women in Machakos and actions taken to reach the goal of gender equality in Kenya will be part of the information sharing. Groups being targeted through social media engagement on Facebook: women aged 25-54, Instagram: women aged 18-34 and 100% website + newsletter: women and men aged 20-90. To create an opportunity for our target groups to connect with the issue and this intervention in Kenya we plan to use personal stories from the Accountability ambassadors making the lived experiences of young women easier to connect to for Danish groups. Besides social media we also plan to combine stories of young mothers living with the consequences of missing SRHR through a poetry collection and the activities from this intervention and share this at Folkemødet 2022 and at 3 fairs covering large parts of Denmark, both genders and a large age group.

Another specific component of our information work will center around the exchange between 2 DUF delegates and 2 female politicians. The 2 DUF delegates will do a ‘takeover’ on social media during their stay in Kenya and will together with Charlotte Lea Jensen, head of communication in 100% and DUF coordinate information work following up on their trip to Kenya in the months after making sure that the cross-country experiences will result in different products such as articles, videos, and newsletter updates. As AYSRHR is a high priority for Danish youth, the 2 DUF delegates will develop a communication plan in co creation with Charlotte Lea Jensen  for the presentation of the project's results and impact stories at events, meetings and conferences, where the DUF delegates are already anticipated to attend.

100% has a strong collaboration with Københavns Professionsskole (University College) for the past years. Every year, 100% sends social worker interns to projects in Ghana and Kenya. This year, 100% has already had initial conversations with the 4 interns, who plan to travel to Kenya in August. They will be doing their internship with PLK. 100% has had good experiences in the past by involving the interns in information work in Denmark through diverse SoMe activities.