

CIRCUS ZAMBIA UPDATES FOR DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

LOCALISING SDGs: REFRESHER COURSE

Members of the Youth Task underwent a capacity building workshop to revisit the purpose, vision and impact of the Localizing SDGs project at individual, organizational and community levels. During the training, the Youth Task Force underwent a design thinking process to evaluate the solutions that can be tackled by Sustainable Development Goals. The participants also held different discussions on their roles as SDG Champions in their communities and the impact of being Agents of Change.





LOCALISING SDGs SCHOOL PROJECT

GCRN'S NEWSLETTER UPDATE - DECEMBER 2022

CYTTS ORGANIZE 1ST COMMUNITY YOUTH FORA

GCRN'S 21 on-air member stations – 20 Community Radio Stations and 1 Community TV Station - formed community engagement activities in December 2022 when they engaged youth in 21 focal communities across 9 Regions in Ghana, mobilized and organized them to discuss the localization of the SDGs in their communities.

Each Community Radio Station's 2 CR-L-SDGs Youth Focal Persons teamed up with the 12-member Community Youth Task Team (CYTT) formed in their Focal community to facilitate a dialogue among youth in these focal communities.

In this 1st Community Youth Forum, the CYTTs passionately introduced the 17 SDGs to their community youth, who were grouped by their age and gender. They creatively aided them to understand and internalize the 17 SDGs and facilitated the youth to prioritize the SDGs according to their most burning needs.

The Community Youth Fora concurrently just held is the first in a series of 4 community youth fora to be carried out and led by the youth in their communities. The fora are the main vehicle for direct community engagement of youth on the project and these 1st fora featured at least 30 youths in each community. The fora were recorded accompanied by on-air radio broadcasts and rebroadcast activities for the benefit of the larger listening community of each community radio station.

The prioritized SDGs are to be fine-tuned into actionable areas for community initiatives, eventually ending up in Community Level Mini-projects validated and Implemented by the entire community with the youths leading.

Figure 1 RADIO SIMLI_1st CYF



Figure 2 RADIO SLIMLI_1st CYF



GCRN'S NEWSLETTER UPDATE - JANUARY, 2023

2nd COMMUNITY YOUTH FORA - A RESOUNDING "YES, WE CAN!" FOR THE NEW YEAR

The passion and ability of youth to lead their participatory developmental agenda through the localization of the SDGs have been demonstrated by the youth across the CR-L-SDGs project's 21 focal communities.

Through the 1st Community Youth Fora youths in 21 communities, facilitated by their Community Youth Task Team who are in turn supported by their CRS Youth Focal Persons, came to know and understand that the SDGs are about them and their communities. But could they move forward with this new knowledge?

The answer was a loud "Yes, we can!"

In January 2023, CYTTs with the support of their project Reference Group (RG) members organized a 2nd Community Youth Forum in their communities.

At these 2nd CYFs, the youth carried out debates on issues around the prioritized SDGs they had selected at the 1st CYFs.

With all age groups duly represented, participants voted to select their group's top priority SDG and to propose a mini community self-help project to advance it. Each group made its case before a moderation panel made up of CYTTs and RG members and had the opportunity to vet their members' ideas on how to transform their situation using a community self-help approach.

The final product of this 2nd CYF was a ballot session where all youth present voted to select the best debate and SDG project idea.

Again, it was a way to immerse the youth in the Global Goals and advance as responsive community members and citizens. Indeed, they began the New Year with a resounding, "Yes, we can!"

Figure 3 RADIO LOM_2ND CYF



Figure 4 RADIO PAD_2nd CYF



UP NEXT:

Join us in our next activity as we facilitate the Youth to present their experiences, ideas, and proposals to their entire communities for validation. Anticipate the first Community Engagement Dialogue series in February 2023 for more on our Community Radio Localizing the SDGs (CR-L-SDGs).

OPEN SPACE UGANDA JANUARY NEWSLETTER UPDATES

THE YOUTH PARLIAMENT IN KAMPALA, WAKISO, AND MUKONO DISTRICTS

Open Space Centre together with members of the community task forces successfully conducted 4 youth parliaments in Kampala and Mukono districts. The youth parliaments that took place from 11th to 12th December at Katosi Resort, Kalerwe Parents School, and Kid's Club Katanga aimed at generating an intense dialogue among the community members and their leaders about the pressing issues encountered in communities, align them to the sustainable development goals and also lay strategies on how to mitigate the challenges. The youth parliaments convened over 100 participants from the parishes of Katosi and Makerere 3 in the districts of Mukono and Wakiso respectively. The youth parliaments that were chaired by the members of the CTF embraced the use of the participatory approach where the young people were given a platform to share the challenges in their communities, align them to the respective SDG, and further come up with the solutions to them.

Youth Parliaments in Mukono districts (1st and 2nd)

Some of the issues from the youth parliament in Mukono included:

- a. Unemployment and poverty. The unemployment in Mukono district is both voluntary and involuntary. Voluntary unemployment is due to the laziness of young people to take up the available jobs as well as the idleness of the young people who spend most of their time in passive activities like betting. On the other hand, involuntary unemployment is due to the unavailability of jobs in Mukono. The interested young people have looked for jobs but all in vain. Unemployment triggers poverty affected by the people.
- b. Health Issues. There is a high spread of HIV/AIDS among the people which is partly due to the high fertility rates among women. The available water in Katosi parish is also dirty due to water pollution and this leads to the spread of waterborne diseases of which the available hospitals and clinics are expensive to be afforded by the local people. In addition, early pregnancy is another health issue affected by the people in the Mukono district.
- c. Drug Abuse. This mostly affects young people between 15 to 19 years who dropped out of school. Young people end up using drugs due to idleness. Those in school use drugs due to peer pressure from their colleagues that dropped out of school. The people who use the drugs end up being criminal victims of rape and theft in the community.
- d. Ignorance and lack of education. The school dropout rates are high in Mukono due to the irresponsibility of parents who think their children are supposed to work for them. The parents take advantage of their children to vendor food items on the streets on their behalf. These children turn out to be uneducated street children due to the ignorance of their parents. On the other hand, some parents find educating their children so expensive in terms of school fees and requirements.

Solutions to the problems as suggested by the leaders and community members.

- Under unemployment and poverty, Luyigo Peter the youth chairperson pledged to distribute 5 boda boda to interested young unemployed men willing to work. Mubiru Yusuf the youth chairperson who deals in fishing also promised to provide employment to the young people in the fishing business. Other youth leaders also promised to create SACCOs and savings to enable the young people appropriately manage their finances. In addition, Mawejeje Isaac a youth counselor who owns a kindergarten promised to provide jobs for 2 teachers and other leaders who are willing to provide firewood to the school.

- For health issues, Kiyimba David a youth councilor, pledged to provide condoms to the meeting points of the young people. This is to reduce unwanted pregnancies among young girls. In addition, the other youth leaders also noted that they will embark on conducting health and career guidance sessions in schools so as to inspire children to keep in school, abstain from sex and also enjoy the benefits of being educated.

- For the drug abuse concern, the leaders also agreed to create friendships with the young people who do drugs, meet up with them and inform them about the dangers of drug abuse as well as change their mindset on the use of alcohol and drugs like cocaine, tobacco, and marijuana.

- Under ignorance and lack of education, Nakuya Florence the female secretary for Katosi ward submitted that she will write a letter to the area councilors to ensure that a ban is put on the young children who vendor items during school time. In addition to this, the leaders also agreed on looking out for the school dropout children and collaborating with their parents to ensure that the children go back to school. The leaders further agreed on making direct visits to schools and providing some scholastic materials to children as a way of encouraging them to keep in school.\

3rd Youth Parliament in Kalerwe, Kampala District.

The youth parliament was organized by Nyanzi Ismail, the youth chairperson of Makerere 3. The following were the key priority challenges of the community members and their leaders.

- a. Poor health and sanitation. The leaders noted that the poor health is due to poor waste disposal and lack of affordable clinics in the Makerere 3. The available clinics also lack medicine. On the other hand, the increased numbers of prostitutes also increase the spread of sexually transmitted diseases among young people.
- b. Lack of education facilities. The school dropout rates in Makerere 3 are high due to the high school costs like school fees as well as peer pressure from the teenagers who are already drop out of school.
- c. Drug Abuse. Most of the young men in Makerere 3 are addicted to using drugs which indirectly affects the community because they end up influencing other young people to do drugs and also commit crimes like theft.
- d. Poverty and lack of jobs. The poverty rates in Makerere 3 are high because of the lack of jobs. Despite the fact that young people look for jobs, they still remain unemployed because of the absence of jobs.

In addition to the above, the people in Makerere 3 are also affected by insecurity, lack of teamwork during community clean-ups, high occupancy of strangers in Makerere 3, and the political indifferences among the community members.

Solutions to the above problems as suggested by the leaders and community members.

- Under poor health and sanitation, Kateregga Dauda community member who works with Uganda Red Cross Society backed up by Nyanzi Ismail the youth chairperson and other youth leaders agreed to conduct monthly clean-up days for the different zones in Makerere 3. To this end, the chairperson used the platform to invite all the participants in attendance to take part in the upcoming clean-up day for the Kibbe zone. In addition to this, as a solution to the health issue, the leaders through Village Health Teams will give out free first aid medication to the community members in need of it.
- For Drug Abuse, the leaders committed to sensitizing the young people who do drugs through conducting awareness campaigns. In addition, they assured the community members that they will be conducting visits to the young people to engage them in one-on-one conversations to

find out the reasons why they do drugs and also come up with strategies to mitigate the causes of drug abuse among young children.

- For the lack of education concern, the leaders advised the parents to take their children to the Universal Primary Education schools they can afford. Furthermore, Kiwanuka Eric a youth chairperson pledged to engage school administrators in Sesanga School who give out 4 bursaries annually to secure bursaries for some of the street children whose parents cannot afford education. This will reduce the number of street children in Makerere 3. On the other hand, the leaders committed to conducting meetings with the parents of the school dropout children to find out why their children dropped out of school.

4th Youth Parliament at Kid's Club Katanga.

The youth parliament was organized by Kemigisha Sharon a CTF member, woman councilor for Wandegeya, and founder of the Kemigisha Cares Foundation. The foundation is an umbrella for all teenage mothers in Katanga. The youth parliament was attended by 21 teenage mothers who addressed the following as the key priority challenges they face in line with SDG 3 which focuses on good health and well-being.

- a. Domestic Violence. Teenage mothers are beaten up by the fathers of their children because they are considered a weaker gender by men.
- b. Child Neglect. The men neglect their children and leave the woman to take care of all the needs of the children. However, the women don't have the ability to solely take care of the children since they even don't have to pay for jobs.
- c. Lack of medicine in hospitals. Teenage mothers have to go through the bureaucratic procedure of attaining medicine for their sick children. On the other hand, the available clinics don't have first aid medicine needed by sick children.

Solution suggested by the teenage mothers.

- The teenage mothers suggested that skilling in hairdressing would be a solution to the unemployment problem faced.