

APPLICATION FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

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Name of intervention	Youth Justice III
SMC member organization	YWCA-YMCA of Sweden
Cooperating partner/s	YMCA South Africa YMCA Togo YMCA Madagascar YMCA Senegal YMCA Ghana African Alliance of YMCAs
Country/ies	South Africa, Togo, Madagascar, Senegal, Ghana, Senegal, Regional (Africa)
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Young people play an important and positive role in maintaining and promoting democratic, peaceful, equal and sustainable societies. However, young people lack voice, space and ability to influence those in authority. Due to a mix of bad governance, lack of resources and knowledge, corruption, lack of accountability and denial of services – duty bearers in the selected countries fail to respond to the challenges that youth are facing and actively prevent youth from claiming their rights. This has an impact of not enabling youth to reach their full potential and enjoy active citizenship. *Youth at risk*¹ and *youth in conflict with the law*² are two groups of youth commonly neglected by their societies, who are facing extensive challenges to claim their rights. These two groups of youth not only face multidimensional challenges linked to poverty and growing up in a disadvantaged community but also lack tools and support needed to be able to handle these challenges. These multidimensional challenges consist of shocks and stresses linked to four key areas: family and community relationships, school, public services & leisure activities and income opportunities & adult learning. Weak ability to cope with stresses and shocks may result in vulnerable lifestyles leading to many becoming *at risk of and/or in conflict with the law*.

The goal of this intervention is that youth in conflict with the law and those at risk of offending have taken steps towards active citizenship in all programme countries during the programme period. This is done by investing in their ability to cope with stresses and shocks linked to the four key areas in their life. Depending on the prerequisite of the individual, stresses and shocks related to the different key areas vary in form and impact. Weak/no family support, low self-awareness and self-esteem, no/weak human rights protection, challenges to handle/complete school, lack of access to skills training and/or income opportunities are the main stresses and shocks that will be addressed by the implementing YMCAs. In order to achieve sustainable results, the intervention includes actions to advocate towards duty bearers in order to establish supporting legal frameworks and practice and to strengthen the capacity of the implementing partners. Six projects contribute to the programme. Implementing partners included are YMCA South Africa, YMCA Togo, YMCA Madagascar, YMCA Senegal, YMCA Ghana and African Alliance of YMCAs. The YMCA organizations in this intervention are particularly well suited to address these issues. They have extensive experience of creating youth driven spaces activities, have a good network with both duty bearers and NGOs and have the capacity to monitor youth development carefully in order to advocate for change. The intervention builds on learnings and results generated from two Swedish Mission Council (SMC) funded interventions, Youth Justice I (15003) and Youth Justice II (18005). Youth Justice III is planned to be the final phase of the Youth Justice development coordinated by YWCA-YMCA of Sweden. Therefore, one of the main expected results is to establish ownership and capacity in order for Youth Justice to be sustained as a field of work within the YMCA movement in Africa. This will be done by strengthening the capacity of local YMCA branches, national movements and by supporting African Alliance of YMCAs to take over the responsibility after 2023. **In order to further strengthen the capacity of the partners - a climate and environmental component will be added in 2023, called *Green Ideas*. This component will have four central activities: contract a climate and environment expert, carry out trainings for two of the intervention partners and finally let the trained youth to design and implement a pilot project based on the learnings from the training. *Green Ideas* will be documented in a written publication. The expected results of *Green Ideas* is that all partners have gained strengthened capacity enabling youth-led climate and environmental projects.**

The development goal of the intervention stems from the UNSCR 2250 on Youth peace and security and will contribute to a number of the Sustainable Development Goals: 16, 4, 3, 5, 17, 8,10³,13 and 15.

¹ A person age 15-35 that has either difficulties to complete school or risks to drop out of school, have a very weak family relation or is living on streets and risks to get into a conflict with the law. See more under [Introduction \(Context Analysis\)](#).

² A person age 15-35 that has broken the law and ended up in detention, probation or prison. See more under [Introduction \(Context Analysis\)](#).

³ These SDGs will be further described in the [Intervention Goals and Objectives](#).

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1. INTRODUCTION

THE EVOLUTION OF YOUTH JUSTICE

This development cooperation intervention is the third and, the anticipated, final phase of the Youth Justice that started in 2015 through funding from Sida CIVSAM through the Swedish Mission Council (SMC). The design of this intervention is heavily based on the achievements and learnings from the previous two programme phases.

The Youth Justice programme aims to strengthen the capacity of YMCAs to empower youth at risk and youth in conflict with the law. During the first phase of the programme, Youth Justice I (2015-2017), a common evidence-based framework for the YMCA Youth Justice work was developed that captures a holistic approach to empower the target group. In the second phase, Youth Justice II (2018-2020), two new YMCA movements with little or no previous experience working with Youth Justice designed and implemented their own projects out of the existing common framework that was developed during phase one. Two new components – resilience⁴ analysis and the PowerSpace⁵ concept – was introduced in order to develop Youth Justice further.

The main aim of the anticipated third phase (2021-2023), presented through this application, is to continue developing the Youth Justice through a stronger focus on making the results and learnings sustainable. This will mainly be done through focusing on increasing capacity at the regional (African) and local (branch) level. During 2023 the intervention will also include to strengthen the capacity involving youth in environment and climate issues.

The process designing the third phase was intensified during the Youth Justice II mid-term review in Addis Ababa in October 2019. During that event, YMCAs from nine countries jointly evaluated the various components of the Youth Justice framework. During the review, one conclusion was that the new components of resilience analysis and PowerSpace have greatly benefitted the programme but also needed to be further developed in the coming years. It was also agreed upon to strengthen the focus on gender equality in order to generate new insights that could be adopted in a third phase of the programme. This application content is also based on insights from the PowerSpace workshops that were implemented in all countries between 2018 and 2019. These workshops were arranged and led by African Alliance of YMCAs and led by youth at risk together with YMCA staff and volunteers and duty-bearers.

In February 2020, the YWCA-YMCA of Sweden board formally decided that YWCA-YMCA of Sweden shall apply to SMC for a continuation of the Youth Justice for the years 2021-2023. The process of writing the application began with each partner developing a short concept paper and budget. Out of these papers, an aggregate concept paper was developed and jointly discussed among the programme partners. As a second step of the process, each partner developed a full project application using the SMC application templates. Lastly, by using the information from the separate project applications, a programme application was developed by YWCA-YMCA of Sweden with feedback from all the implementing partners.

This application is directly or indirectly linked to the following SMC/Sida funded interventions:

- 18:005 Youth Justice II (2018-2020)
(YMCA South Africa, YMCA Togo, YMCA Madagascar, YMCA Senegal)
- 15:013 Youth Justice (2015-2017)
(YMCA South Africa, YMCA Togo, Zambia YWCA, Zambia YMCA)
- 12:019 Subject to Citizen (2012-2015)
(Africa Alliance of YMCAs; YMCA South Africa, YWCA Zambia, YMCA Zambia, YWCA Kenya)
- 12:201 Act 2 Live (2012-2015)

⁴ The ability to handle/cope with stresses and shock in life is called “resilience” in the rest of the application.

⁵ See [PowerSpace](#) for elaboration on the concept.

(Africa Alliance of YMCAs, Y-care Int., YMCA Togo, Liberia YMCA, YMCA Senegal, Zimbabwe YMCA, YMCA Madagascar, Zambia YMCA, Zambia YWCA)

- 09:002 From Subject to Citizen (2009-2013)
(Africa Alliance of YMCAs)

APPLYING ORGANIZATIONS

YMCA SOUTH AFRICA

YMCA South Africa is a non-governmental, non-profit Christian movement, founded in 1865 and is organised through a federal structure of 16 autonomous local associations. Their goal is to empower young people for life, leadership and service. Six local associations (Cape Flats, Athlon, Greater Durban, Pietermaritzburg, Nelson Mandela Bay, Ravensmead) are currently operating the Youth Justice projects.

Through the Youth Justice projects, the South African YMCA has been able to establish around 34 in-country partnerships at the end of 2019, demonstrating an intentional approach of the organization which is to scale up the project through networks consisting of civil society organisations and duty bearers. As an experienced partner within the Youth Justice sector, South African YMCA will continue to provide mentoring and support to other national YMCA movements in the programme. During 2020 this partner organization began to focus on gender-based violence through the Transformative Masculinity⁶ (TM) approach, which will be of use during this programme intervention. A TM training manual is being developed during 2020. It will provide a basis for Youth Justice activities to contribute to the elimination of gender-based violence. This manual will be made available to all project partners of the new intervention.

YWCA-YMCA of Sweden and YMCA South Africa have been partners since 1989, before the fall of apartheid. Apart from Youth Justice, the organization also runs the programmes Y Zone (relating to after school activities), Y Arts, Youth leadership, Y-Health (HIV, TB and diabetes prevention) and Y-Fit (an income generating programme linked to the YMCA mission).

South Africa YMCA is a competent youth Justice partner with somewhat limited experience in the development of climate and environment focused initiatives on a macro scale. The capacity of the YMCA is in its ability to mobilize the very vulnerable for the purpose of generation of youth led interventions. Staff and participant capacity will likely improve after the 3i Model of intervention.

YMCA TOGO

YMCA Togo is a non-governmental, non-profit Christian movement founded in 1903. It is today one of the most respected youth organizations in Togo. It has received support from both European Commission, UNICEF and other multilateral organizations and has regular contacts with the Togolese government and local authorities. The continuous experience of working with the legal frameworks in the country make the organization a respectable stronghold of working with Human Rights.

The organization has over ten years of experience working with young people in conflict with the law and at risk of offending with Youth Justice being one of the pillars of the organization's strategic plan. It is currently the only civil society organization (CSO) working in all prisons in the country. YMCA Togo has also a strong network with other African YMCAs and intends to share the experiences of working with Youth Justice with the partner organizations

⁶ See [Previous Learnings](#) for definition.

inside and outside the programme. The competence and capacity of YMCA Togo will help the organization act as a strategic partner and an advisor to other partner organizations.

YWCA-YMCA of Sweden began its work with YMCA Togo in 2012 through the programme Act 2 Live. The partnership between the organizations was further developed in 2015 when the Youth Justice programme was initiated. YMCA Togo was visited by a delegation from SMC in 2016.

Togo YMCA: Togo YMCA has the capacity for climate change and environment action mainly through the Agricultural training college in Bagbe, as well as a core constituency of staff. With further capacity building for staff through the 3i model, youth led interventions will improve.

YMCA SENEGAL

The YMCA Senegal is a non-governmental, non-profit Christian movement founded in 1982. The mission of the organization is to empower youth to become responsible and active citizens. YMCA Senegal works with holistic approaches to personal development through education, trainings, sports, social and community services. The organization is composed of twelve branches in six regions of the country: Dakar, Thies, Kaolack, Saint-Louis, Kolda and Ziguinchor. Today, YMCA Senegal has strong partnerships with YMCAs of the USA, Gambia and Togo.

Training of young people in entrepreneurship and employability, reinforcement of mathematics and reading levels in school education of children and the development of life skills stands as one of the head priorities for YMCA Senegal with the Youth Justice programme being one of the main operationalization of the objective. Within the context of Senegal and its lack of reintegration structures, among relevant mechanisms, YMCA Senegal has established itself as a collaborator with prison administrations and as an organization that supports prisoners through reintegration programmes. YMCA Senegal is a strong movement with many volunteers which strengthen their capacity to work with youth mobilization.

YWCA-YMCA of Sweden began its work with YMCA Senegal in 2012 through the programme Act 2 Live. YMCA Senegal started to work with Youth Justice in 2018.

Senegal YMCA: Senegal YMCA has limited engagement with climate change and environment work. The YMCA is currently working to strengthen its local branches and so is in the process of strengthening its financial capability and sustainability in collaboration with the local authorities.. The Senegal YMCA movement will benefit from the capacity building as well as it will contribute to their current strategic focus.

YMCA MADAGASCAR

YMCA Madagascar is a non-governmental, non-profit Christian youth movement founded in 1924. The organization operates in six regions of Madagascar. YMCA youth centres in these regions service youth on a daily basis. The organization also reaches out to villages and rural areas.

Since 2006, YMCA Madagascar has implemented projects with a focus on socioeconomic and civic empowerment and health, targeting vulnerable young people, as is specified in their strategic plan. As one of the key implementers of the Subject 2 Citizen (S2C) approach⁷, Madagascar is an experienced national movement when it comes to working with underprivileged youth. YMCA Madagascar is considered to be one of the most successful YMCAs in Africa working with economic empowerment for vulnerable youth.

⁷ See [Intervention Goals and Objectives](#) for elaboration on the context.

YMCA Madagascar has collaborated with international partners including the European Union, Y-Care International and YMCA USA. YWCA-YMCA of Sweden began its work with YMCA Madagascar in 2012 through the programme Act 2 Live. The organization started to work with Youth Justice in 2018 and has been steadily incorporating the framework and methods of the programme into their main activities. This phase of the programme sees YMCA Madagascar scaling up the activities and geographical reach to new areas.

Madagascar YMCA: Madagascar YMCA has advanced capacity in mobilization of youth through the youth clubs model. They also have an active engagement with the local WWF office, and they are involved in joint actions, although at a very micro level. The YMCA would benefit from building on the established partnership.

YMCA GHANA

The YMCA Ghana is a member, non-governmental and non-profit Christian organization that works to transform and develop young people to become active citizens. Established in 1890, YMCA Ghana has remained a forerunner in youth and child development programmes in many parts of the country. YMCA Ghana's core activities centre on early childhood education, youth leadership and governance training, vocational and technical training, rural development, livelihood intervention programs and provision of hospitality services.

While being a new member of the Youth Justice programme, their high capacity and many volunteers and members as well as experience in working with youth-based activities and spaces (kindergartens, youth centres, training institutes) is a welcome contribution to the programme. Ghana YMCA has a nationwide network of branches that enables reach to more remote rural areas. Furthermore, the organisation has developed a network with several duty bearers throughout Ghana's national context.

YMCA Ghana have previously successfully implemented projects in partnership with Bread for the World and Weltfilm. The organization implemented the SMC Added Value project in 2019 and participated in the Youth Justice II mid-term review in Addis Ababa in October 2019.

Ghana YMCA: Ghana YMCA has limited engagement on climate change and environment work, and is very new in the Human Centered Design process. However, the Movement is able to mobilize the most at risk youth and has the staff capacity for engagement.

AFRICA ALLIANCE OF YMCAS (AAYMCA)

Africa Alliance of YMCAs (AAYMCA) was founded in 1977 and constitutes a network of twenty African YMCAs and acts as a "technical house" for the movement, developing methods, strategies and approaches in order to support and strengthen the member organizations. Since 2016, AAYMCA operates through the Y3.0 strategy which sets youth empowerment as a core for the various work of the network. The strategy establishes that AAYMCA shall provide assistance to the national and local YMCA associations and work with innovative methods for youth empowerment. The strategy stipulates that one of AAYMCA's main objectives is to support the implementing partners of the Youth Justice programme together with YWCA-YMCA of Sweden.

Africa Alliance has the overall responsibility for monitoring and developing the Subject to Citizen philosophy which aims to empower young men and women with voice, space and ability to influence relevant duty bearers at different levels such as communities, countries and the continent towards a holistic transformation of young people's communities, nations and the African continent into a peaceful and equal society. Four strategic components lead the way for the Africa Alliance: civic education, economic empowerment, Transformative Masculinity and Youth Justice.

AAYMCA also coordinates the movement's peer audit process, called the Global Operating Plan, where each year, representatives from the movement assess a couple of national movements resulting in an action plan monitored by AAYMCA. The main goal of the peer reviews is sharing of tools, experiences and lessons learned across the members of the network.

AAYMCA has the technical capacity for delivery of the 3i model of youth engagement and has implemented the model in 10 National Movements, at varying levels of success. The AAYMCA also has a standing Memorandum of Understanding with the WWF regional office, which allows for the development of interventions as planned through the intervention. The AAYMCA is also in the process of revising its Strategic plan, with a view to alignment with global trends, including climate change. The WorldWide Fund for Nature Regional office for Africa (WWF – ROA) is the leading Conservation organization in the region. The organization has been engaged in environmental conservation for decades within the region and has recently concluded a partnership project with the AAYMCA that focused on the top 100 leaders in conservation in Africa. The AAYMCA and WWF have a working relationship that facilitates fundraising, youth capacity building and institutional strengthening.

In October 2020, the World Alliance of YMCAs organized the Youth Led Solutions Summit on climate Change. Young leaders participated in sessions and workshops to discuss practical ideas and solutions to address the climate crisis. After the Summit, teams worked with mentors to design more than sixty innovative projects to address climate challenges in their communities⁸. There were 209 African participants in the online global conference who formed 44 Solutions Groups. 6 Groups received between 1000-6000 USD each to implement micro projects that addressed several youth-identified and prioritized projects. As part of equipping African youth with the right skills and networks, The Africa Alliance of YMCAs and partners including the Africa Wildlife Foundation (AWF), Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) and World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM) in 2021 developed a project to equip young African environmentalists to take active lead in climate change related actions. The Top 100 program as it was referred to, was leadership development programme aimed at enabling young people into conservation with the knowledge and skills to improve design of their initiatives, implementation model, community engagement, networking and resource mobilization. The project gave Top 100 access to mentorship from industry leaders in nature and wildlife conservation as well as access to information resources and tools to enable them better manage their initiatives, monitor and scale and sustain their initiatives. These efforts culminated in the unanimous acceptance of the Vision 2030 in July 2022 at the Global YMCA's highest decision making body, the World Council. Through Vision 2030 enables the Global Movement has committed to becoming a Greener Movement, becoming an active youth voice on climate justice and championing youth-led sustainability solutions. The Africa Alliance of YMCAs is party to the vision and subscribes to it, and as well is in 2022 committed to reviewing its own strategic intent to ensure that Climate change is captured explicitly in its own Strategic plan (2023 – 2026).

YWCA-YMCA OF SWEDEN

YWCA-YMCA of Sweden is a Christian youth movement founded in 1884. The YWCA-YMCA of Sweden consists of 140 local associations with approximately 45,000 members involved in sports, scouting, youth clubs, choirs and other social youth activities. The organization is affiliated with the World YWCA and YMCA and the YMCA and the YWCA of Europe. As the national organization, YWCA-YMCA of Sweden has the responsibility for the movement's public relations, leadership training, organizational identity, and international cooperation.

In 2017, YWCA-YMCA of Sweden adopted a long-term national strategy (valid until 2025). The focus areas in the strategy is Inclusiveness, Identity & Power and Gender equality. Building on these principles, YWCA-YMCA of

⁸ <https://www.youthsolutions.ymca.int/climate-summit>

Sweden established an international strategy⁹ and policy in 2019. The proposed intervention's objectives and methods are in line with these strategies and policies.

The intervention fits into YWCA-YMCA Sweden's commitment to UNSCR2250 and to the focus on SDGs (primary goals 5, 10, 16 and 17) in the current information project "Din Agenda" (18802) funded by SMC/Sida.

YWCA-YMCA of Sweden is currently involved in the following development SMC/Sida CIVSAM cooperation interventions:

- Youth Justice II; with the YMCAs of Togo, South Africa, Senegal and Madagascar (SMC no 18005).
- Youth – the driving force for Agenda 2030/Youth Embrace; with YMCAs in Ukraine and Belarus (SMC no 18006).
- Strengthening Young Women to be Change agents in the Palestinian society; with YWCA of Palestine (SMC no 20014).
- This is how Youth Promotes Peace and Security (UNSCR2250); financed by FBA.

PREVIOUS LEARNINGS AND RESULTS

PREVIOUS LEARNINGS

- **The family link:** One of the main lessons from the Youth Justice work that started in 2015 is the need to involve and include the family when empowering a young person at risk. We know from experience that a person struggles to sustain without any support or acknowledgment from his/her family. Therefore, all YMCAs working with Youth Justice need to be equipped with staff or volunteers who can coordinate and support strengthening the family link. If this is not possible due to lack of capacity, such as availability of social workers in the project, it is vital to form partnerships with authorities and/or NGOs who can provide family support such as regular home visits, awareness raising and mediation between the youth at risk and the family and community. In cases where the family link cannot be (re-)established it is important that YMCA identify a trustworthy adult who is willing to acknowledge and support the youth at risk.
- **PowerSpace:** The main development during phase II of the Youth Justice programme was the integration of the PowerSpace framework¹⁰. It promotes the adoption of a deeper youth perspective by the implementing YMCAs. The PowerSpace framework also serves as a tool in ensuring a holistic and sustainable support to the targeted youth from an engagement/entry phase through to linking them to a new opportunity. Furthermore, using the PowerSpace framework as a monitoring tool reveals what the YMCA branches need to develop the ability to offer quality youth lead activities.
- **Transformative Masculinity:** During the past few years all partners YMCAs have identified a growing number of gender-based violence offenders in prisons and victims in vulnerable communities where the rule of law is absent or extremely weak. As a response to this alarming trend, it was jointly agreed to include Transformative Masculinity¹¹ into the Youth Justice programme mainly through the psychosocial

⁹ YWCA-YMCA of Sweden's international strategy is attached as an annex.

¹⁰ See [PowerSpace](#) for the elaboration on the concept.

¹¹ The Transformative Masculinity (TM) Programme is about re-defining, re-ordering and re-orienting masculinity. Through several initiatives, e.g. intergenerational dialogues, the YMCA focuses on promoting positive young men to be role models who are engaging equally with young women in ensuring equal access to Human Rights. TM works towards gender equality by changing hegemonic notions of masculinity where 'manliness' used for dominance or as a structure that perpetuates such dominance is transformed to an equitable construct. The programme aims to transform the societal structures, norms and cultures that create hegemonic masculinity using a mentoring approach for young people: male notions of social power by

support provided to the target groups. Moreover, gender equality is included in the life skills training provided both inside and outside prisons. The area of Transformative Masculinity will be further developed in the coming years through piloting different approaches that include individual support, group discussions, better monitoring, advocacy work and awareness raising towards communities and authorities.

- **Communication and knowledge management:** Most youth targeted in this intervention already have or will soon have internet access most commonly through their cell phones. The Youth Justice programme needs to respond to this fast-growing development. In this intervention we aim to continue to develop our communication so that it will be as successful as possible. This will be done through the formation of a communication network within the programme. We also plan to pilot and develop the use of visual media. In the previous phases, communication and knowledge management have been handled together and coordinated by AAYMCA. They have reported a challenge to access relevant knowledge that is generated through activities and documented in reports etc. In this intervention we will form an advisory board responsible for the learnings generated. The board will primarily report to AAYMCA.
- **Partnerships and networks:** A majority of the achieved positive results generated in the two previous phases is a results of successful partnerships/taskforce groups and the use and/or creation of formal and informal networks. In this intervention we aim to formalise this by supporting the creation of alumni meetings in all YMCAs. We will also continue to arrange round-table meetings with relevant stakeholders. These meetings serve to strengthen partners' actions that aim to increase accountability of duty bearers. They also build capacity in staff and volunteers and multiply the intended impact of Youth Justice work by leveraging off the combined actions of each partner.

PREVIOUS RESULTS

Since the Youth Justice start in 2015, the following YMCA results can be highlighted:

- **Access to justice:** Through the Youth Justice work of YMCA Togo the average time in pre-trial detention has decreased from a 6-month average to 2-months in the six prisons targeted by the intervention. Through the YMCA Youth Justice programmes, 363 young people have been released from prison due to false charges or already served sentences¹².
- **Reintegration:** Only 2 percent of all people supported through the YMCA Youth Justice post release from prison support have returned to prison (compared to national figures of 50-80 percent recidivism)¹³. This is mainly due to active work done by the YMCA to construct a social network around the targeted person. The network usually contained professional trainers, relatives, YMCA staff and other actors who could offer mentorship, acceptance and psycho-social help.
- **Strengthened resilience:** 50 409 youth at risk have been supported to strengthen their resilience against multidimensional shocks and stresses in their lives through the Youth Justice programs¹⁴.
- **Advocacy:** Through the advocacy work of YMCA Senegal, the Ministry of Justice has committed pilot probation as an alternative sentence for youth in conflict with the law. This has never been practiced before in the country.

promoting mutual dependence between young men and women; the social structures that distort masculinity by engaging with family, community/ethnic networks and religious institutions; youth culture and norms that perpetuate distorted male dominance by using popular culture and youth mediums.

¹² The results are based on aggregate figures from Togo, South Africa, Madagascar and Senegal.

¹³ The results are based on aggregate figures from Togo, South Africa, Madagascar and Senegal.

¹⁴ The results are based on aggregate figures from Togo, South Africa, Madagascar and Senegal.

- **Capacity development:** Through the development of a joint Youth Justice framework and learnings, five new YMCA movements in Africa have started Youth Justice work and one new international partner has committed to support YMCA Youth Justice since 2015.

2. CONTEXT ANALYSIS

GENERAL CONTEXT

This context analysis is a result of five years of close monitoring, daily interactions, and workshops together with the target groups. Some regional and international research has been included where relevant. The areas selected to present the programme context are: human development and peace and security.

This intervention includes three countries within the DAC list category “least developed countries”: **Madagascar, Senegal and Togo**. Using the *Human Rights Development Index* (HDI) the three countries are ranked among the poorest countries in the world (Madagascar 162nd out of 189, Senegal 166th out of 189 and Togo 167th out of 189). Looking at the peace and security situation using the *Global Peace Index* the overall context in these three countries differ somewhat – Senegal and Madagascar are labelled peaceful (Senegal 47th of out 163, Madagascar 63rd out of 163) and Togo to some degree peaceful (108th out of 163). However, they share the situation of high perception of criminality, a high prevalence of violent crimes and access to weapons.

The intervention also includes a DAC lower middle-income country **Ghana** and a DAC higher middle-income country **South Africa**. Using the HDI the two countries are ranked 142nd and 113th respectively. When looking at the peace and security context however, South Africa is ranked as an insecure country (123rd out of 163) with extremely high prevalence of homicide, perception of criminality, violent crime and access to weapons. Ghana is considered to be more peaceful and secure in general (43rd out of 163) but has a very high perception of criminality as well as prevalence of violent crimes and political terror. These crime indicators highlight the relevance of Youth Justice work in both countries.

Despite being the least contributor to climate change, with a contribution of about 2-3%¹⁵ of global emissions, Africa is least capable of effective adaptation strategies. Poor economic conditions mean that there is lack of resources on the whole to effectively buffer Africans against the effects of long-term, permanent effects of climate change. Shocks and stresses on especially the youth are exacerbated by the effects of climate change and the continent’s inability to effectively adapt to Climate change. In order to address this challenge, UNEP has put in place a framework for supporting countries in Africa to implement their climate action commitments specifically to meet socio-economic priorities, key of which is the issue of enterprise opportunities for youth as well as economic expansion. These commitments are referred to as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

African women shoulder an enormous portion of the responsibility for subsistence agriculture, the culling of resources for subsistence and marketing, the provisioning of households in fuel and water, and much of the share of agribusiness and various economic crops. This means that while human threats inherent in climate change are crucial, they may be more serious for women. Yet, women in the continent are poorly equipped to slow change, and poorly resourced for the adaptations demanded of them¹⁶. Additionally, young women in the continent still continue to be disadvantaged in terms of access to economically productive activities and education, making them less prepared for adaptation. Primary development policies in many countries, known as poverty reduction strategies, still do not take into account differences in income and power between men and women, hampering

¹⁵ <https://www.unep.org/regions/africa/regional-initiatives/responding-climate-change>

¹⁶

https://www.afdb.org/sites/default/files/documents/publications/climate_change_gender_and_development_in_africa.pdf

efforts to finance programmes that reduce inequality. In addition, the majority of African women are still denied education and employment, and have limited opportunities in trade, industry and government¹⁷.

The countries included in this intervention are facing serious environmental and social challenges that are linked to climate change and environmental degradation. Only in 2022, the Youth Justice program was directly affected by climate related catastrophes: on Madagascar annual cyclones and tropical storms are getting stronger year by year. More than 960 000 people were affected by the cyclones and storms in Madagascar during January and March 2022. Rice and maize fields were destroyed affecting both the food security and the country's export capacity. An estimated 470 000 were in urgent need of food assistance. At the beginning of 2022, Durban in South Africa was facing extreme floodings – destroying homes, roads, electricity and water treatment plants and killing over 300 people.

YOUTH JUSTICE CONTEXT

Understanding the Youth Justice context is an ongoing process. Since the Youth Justice started in 2015, it has become evident that the different countries involved in addressing Youth Justice share a lot of challenges and constraints but differ in others.

All of the five countries included in this intervention have a very young population – approximately 60 percent of the population are under 25 years old. Young/youth is considered to be between 15 to 35 years old.

This intervention targets two sub-groups of youth, namely **youth at risk of offending**¹⁸ and **youth in conflict with the law**¹⁹. These groups consist of youth who, due to one or several disconnections in key areas of a young person's life, are pushed into destructive ways of managing and coping with life and are thus at risk of offending the law. They face multidimensional challenges linked to poverty and disadvantaged communities while also lacking tools and support needed to be able to handle these challenges. These multidimensional challenges consist of shocks and stresses linked to four key areas: 1) family and community relationships, 2) access to quality education, 3) access to public services and leisure activities and 4) access to income opportunities and adult learning. These areas are both sources of challenges and at the same time great influences on the ability of youth to improve their resilience against these challenges and take steps towards an active citizenship.

Through our observations when working with Youth Justice and international research, it is a fact that a majority of youth at risk and youth in conflict with the law are young men. However, this intervention includes activities targeting young women at risk such as young sex workers, homeless young women, young women in gangs or at high risk of joining, young mothers or young women in prison and young women released from prison.

Since the interventions are designed through a Human Rights Framework, the context areas are linked to relevant Human Rights regulations. Duty bearers are listed and analysed through each key area (see [Duty Bearers](#)). Furthermore, the role of CSOs within the key areas is described (see [Civil Society Actors](#)).

¹⁷ <https://www.un.org/africarenewal/magazine/july-2005/african-women-battle-equality>

¹⁸ A person age 15-35 that has either difficulties to complete school or risks to drop out of school, have a very weak family relation or is living on streets and risks to get into a conflict with the law. This group can be divided into *youth at risk* and *youth at risk post release from prison*.

¹⁹ A person age 15-35 that has broken the law and ended up in detention, probation or prison.

AREA 1: FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

Family

In Africa the family structure is one of the most important areas of influence in a person's life. The order of birth, number of people in the household and the gender distribution matters. Your role and responsibility towards your family may change but most people are not acting independently from their family. This is partly due to the lack of a social welfare system that makes it possible to take sick leaves or that takes care of elders. In many families, members are absent due to broken relationships, work, education or decrease. Children can be sent to be taken care of by members of the extended family. Social and economic tensions aggravate poor families' vulnerability. This vulnerable situation is further exacerbated by the use of alcohol, drugs and violence.

Experiences from previous phases of Youth Justice reveals that a majority of youth at risk of offending suffer from a dysfunctional family situation, meaning it is one of the key factors leading to becoming *at risk*. Young people living in such families often lack access to basic psychosocial, material and/or sexual and reproductive health support. Thus, it can lead to a young person dropping out of school or having challenges to complete school or even being left or partly left by their families to live on their own. Lack of family support and solidarity can cause conflictual relationships and a general lack of confidence among youth. Moving out to the streets seems to be a refuge for many of the young people to escape the trauma of the family situation. Consequently, a weak or violent family relationship increases young people's risk of missing guidance, love and encouragement, livelihood or positive role models.

Community

In many countries in the programme, young people are stigmatized as wrong doers. Tensions between the community and youth at risk are prevalent in many places in the countries of the programme. Young people who may have adopted inappropriate attitudes, e.g. not willing to get engaged in civic duties, are putting themselves out of the community system. This leads to them being excluded from their community and labelled as an undesirable person. At the same time, this behaviour may originate from being excluded or stigmatized. If the youth does not adhere to the standards of behaviour that the community promotes, it affects the relationship between them and their families.

When estranged from their family, young people can find a replacement for family ties, shelter, survival and sense of belonging in a group of friends and/or a gang who shares a similar background. This is also a factor in youth becoming *at risk*. A great challenge for taking these young people off the streets is that they will lose their main coping mechanisms – his/her friends and/or access to drugs. Within a community of youth at risk, the influence of peers can often lead to the usage of drugs and alcohol and petty theft. These negative habits can spread through negative peer pressure across a broader range of young people, e.g. when such young people attend school while being involved in a gang or while addicted to substances. This weakens the educational opportunities for the whole school and is a risk to the safety and security of students. For example, in Cape Flats, South Africa, over 90% of school dropouts are known to be substance abusers.

During a youth-lead workshop arranged during the previous phase of the programme, one of the most highlighted challenges raised among the youth participants was difficulty accessing romantic relationships and/or worrying about lack of marriage, family and kids. Not being able to support a future family through an ability to provide income or through an extended family, as well as destructive masculine ideals, negatively affect opportunities for youth at risk to establish long-term romantic relationships which has an impact on their sense of belonging and perception of the future. While young men at risk may be worried about the lack of romantic relationships and future children, it still may be very hard to diverge from the macho and negative behaviour that they have adopted. Thus, when such a relationship is established, their partners may become the victims of such negative

behaviour which may continue in a negative cycle. Young women at risk, without family support or a partner, are often forced into prostitution in order to care of herself and her children.

Youth at risk post release from prison are continually excluded, stigmatized and often blamed for crimes committed in a community. Where there has been a consistent mediation and engagement process between a young person's family and community while in prison, this stigmatisation is reduced significantly.

Religion

Youth at risk, lacking access to role models and moral duty bearers, may be seduced by extremist networks with religious ideology and give-aways. It can happen through the influence of peers who, in similar manner, have few reasons to refuse the offered opportunities of resources such as food and shelter as well as feelings of community and belonging. This risk is further exacerbated by the proximity of (armed) conflicts in the regions of the programme.

While most of the countries in the programme have a secular constitution, although not always being so in practice, religion might be another community standard that the discrepant behaviour of youth at risk has broken against. Most religions in Africa are by tradition interpreted through a patriarchal lens. This compounds the challenge of advocating for gender equality and ending gender-based violence.

AREA 2: ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF SCHOOL

Among youth at risk, a majority have either dropped out of school or are having challenges to complete/attend school. Parents of these young people can be so impoverished that their children have no option but to fend for themselves and/or take care of their poor parents and siblings, which increases the occurrence of child labour and the school dropout rate. A majority of the target group struggle to access *adequate standard of living, including adequate food, clothing and housing* (Article 25 of UDHR).

In the selected countries primary school is formally free or subsidized by the government. However, several countries suffer from teacher shortages, low quality education and consequently high school dropout rates. Subsequently *the right to basic education* (Article 26 of UDHR) is violated for a substantial part of the young population. According to a national survey done in Madagascar in 2015, only 48.6% have completed primary school (with similar numbers for Togo), 28.6% have completed secondary school and as low as 1.7% have university degrees while 14.1% have never attended school. According to an ILO survey in 2014, 21.9% of young people (15-29 years old) are neither in employment, education nor training (NEET) in Togo, which can be greatly connected to the lack of education as a basis for future individual development. The NEET phenomenon is particularly widespread among women due to their systematic exclusion from education and learning. The first born and boys are traditionally chosen to study before girls, especially in rural areas. The high level of child marriages and teenage pregnancies in some countries in the programme make it even harder for girls to attend school.

The possibility to access secondary or higher education depends very much on the economic status of the family. Many families are unable to afford even the subsidized cost of education. Thus, it is very common that a young person is dependent on financial support from an extended family member living and working abroad in order to complete school. In South Africa, though being a high middle-income country, only 10% of people of age 19 are able to attend university due to the disadvantageous situation for many people. Hence, higher education can be a privilege since it entails climbing many socio-economic obstacles.

To afford education, some girls and young women are forced to supplement their income through sex work or enter relationships with older men, as the gender power imbalance is in favour of men and/or the sex buyer. Young men and women from poor families both struggle to access education of different levels but different "methods" or coping strategies are used to survive and overcome the economic challenges. These methods can bring different kinds of stigma and mental effects to the young person. Thus, while girls and boys both undergo

struggles in order to access education, girls can also experience harm due to sexual exploitation that is more uncommon among young men.

After a young person is released from prison, he/she can theoretically return to school, but in reality, very few are able to do so. The impact of the stigmatization and the social exclusion that spending time in prison implies make it hard for young people to recreate contact with their ex-schoolmates and create new relationships with other students. This tarnishes the motivation to return to school. Moreover, for the majority of youth at risk post release, earning an income is an urgent priority on their release while education is often not linked to employment opportunities. In addition to stigmatization, in some cases it is impossible to access school if time has been spent in prison due to age limits for the compulsory education²⁰.

AREA 3: ACCESS TO PUBLIC SERVICES AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES

Youth at risk of offending suffer from no or limited access to healthcare, public spaces and other services (Article 24 and 21 of UDHR). Some of many reasons are their lack of income, stigmatisation by the healthcare system and/or lack of necessary identification documents. Although healthcare systems are free or subsidised in some countries, treatments and medicine can be unaffordable. As a result, many are forced to practice self-medication whenever they feel unwell. Self-medication creates a black market and poses great risks for the health of these young people.

Unable to afford the cost of decent accommodation, many are living in poor conditions without any distinct occupational habits. Many young people are forced into prostitution and suffer from drug related problems. This makes the outcomes of inaccessibility to public services and health services severe. For example, the free, for most countries, HIV/Aids testing and medicine has created a black market where the HIV/Aids positive sell his/her medicine to get money for food or drugs. This is a challenge particularly in South Africa, where the common and deadly drug whoonga is partly made out of the HIV/Aids medicine. Drug and/or alcohol rehabilitation available in the countries often cost more than the individual or his/her family can afford.

Although leisure activities and youth spaces do exist in most countries/places, the options available are very limited, sparsely equipped and are often informally organised. While youth at risk may not be prohibited to access these spaces, such spaces may be few and costly. Therefore, youth at risk have little opportunity to enjoy leisure activities. Moreover, a lot of public leisure spaces/facilities such as basketball pitches or gyms are worn-down, in need of maintenance and unattractive. Leisure activities popular among girls are even more limited in most countries. Due to lack of alternatives, many young people develop substance abuse and/or engage in e.g. gambling in spaces that are unsafe. Many youths end up being dependent on earning or stealing money to solve gambling debts or to handle the addiction needs.

Environmental degradation is also a significant factor in youths becoming *at risk*. Many of them come from communities where the majority of land is infertile or with poor conditions for farming due to deforestation and poor irrigation. Such communities usually lack good drinking water which also correlates with health and sanitation facilities, but also has sport or entertainment facilities, being in poor conditions. Such communities are not only unattractive for youth but are also liable to spreading diseases such as malaria and other related illnesses. In the COVID-19 reality, health officials throughout Africa are admitting that the long-term neglect of health facilities in poor communities has created strong possibilities for massive spread of the virus.

AREA 4: INCOME POSSIBILITIES AND ACCESS TO ADULT LEARNING

In 2015, according to the ILO Country Programme for Decent Work, young people have been identified as among the most vulnerable groups in employment. Youth unemployment remains a critical matter in all of the selected countries, lying around 40-80 percent. Hence, it is clear that the right to gain livelihood from work is nowhere close

²⁰ E.g. 15 years in South Africa

to be manifested (Article 6 of CESCR). In Madagascar for example, 3 out of 5 young people are unemployed and 100,000 new job seekers are registered every year. Many are forced to engage in unprotected, informal, and precarious day labour with low incomes, such as work at the local market, construction activities or being a so-called street porter/hawker. Only a small fraction of workers is affiliated to a social protection system. Violation of the right to the enjoyment of just and favourable conditions of work (Article 7 of CESCR) happens on a daily basis for youth at risk as they are often used and/or are not paid for the work they do.

Suffering from a lack of quality education and exposed to high levels of unemployment and underemployment, youth are in vulnerable employment, in NEET²¹ situations or are unpaid family workers. Many young workers do not have the required qualifications to occupy any favourable positions. Due to a negative cycle of poverty, no or low education, stigmatization etc, youths without skills and assets also do not manage to reach any opportunities for entrepreneurship. The fragile and unstable economy limits the growth potential of youth micro-enterprises. Due to a lack of information and required qualifications such as basic education, youth at risk are marginalized from government programs and initiatives to support entrepreneurship.

Young people living in deprived circumstances are more vulnerable and are thus more likely to be forced to engage in dangerous activities as being recruited to handle illegal matters such as stealing, smuggling, selling drugs or other illegal products and are thus constantly exposed to a high risk of ending up in conflict with the law. Criminal activities become a way for young people to earn their own income when their families' livelihood fails.

Traditional practices in the communities and discrimination and gender stereotypes at the labour market makes young women even more vulnerable. Wages for women are systematically lower than for men. They have only a small (or no) capital to start and run their business or to use as a buffer between jobs, are often excluded from land ownership and become engaged in child labour and prostitution, exploited in exchange for protection while living on the streets. For young girls at risk, already being stigmatized and underprivileged when it comes to income opportunities, burdens of insecure low-income jobs and threats of sexual harassment are even higher.

Due to climate change, a lot of countries face interrupted or absent rain seasons. This results in bad harvests, famine, drying lakes, lack of productive land, depletion of fish stocks, lack of fresh water etc. These factors deprive many of employment such as farming, making the living conditions in rural areas harsh and conflict-ridden. Due to limited sizes of fertile land, conflicts frequently emerge among communities where families, individuals or chiefs claim ownership of the limited lands. This pushes family members and/or young people to look for income opportunities in the cities to cater for themselves and their poor families. A substantial amount of youth at risk targeted in this intervention share this background.

A common trauma of many of the extended families in Ghana, Senegal and Togo is that they have family members who have tried to migrate to Europe without a permission to stay. Very few succeed, ending up in prison, disappear or even die. Those who fail and manage to return back to their home communities face a difficult life and are often stigmatized, further aggravating the harsh situation they are facing with few livelihood opportunities present.

A youth at risk released from pre-trial detention or prison commonly faces a situation of stigmatization where he/she is neither accepted by his/her family or community nor by any favourable work. Thus, having no access to consequent and secure income, he/she will commonly not find any place to stay. His/her rights to *work*, *housing* and to *an adequate standard of living* are commonly violated (article 23 and 25 of UDHR).

²¹ Neither in employment, education nor training.

AREA 1: FAMILY AND COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS

Family

Young people that are in detention or prison can rarely access any public support. The family relationship of youth in conflict with the law is affected by the poverty of families with family solidarity being bigger when the prisoner comes from an economically stable family. If youth in conflict with the law has a weak family relationship, he/she will not receive any visits or be missed by a family member²². In most cases, family ties are broken before or during incarceration. If not, the already fragile family relationships become aggravated since the prison is culturally perceived as a shame for the family. The relationship worsens during the imprisonment.

Solidarity and visits from the family can manifest itself for a certain time at the beginning of an incarceration entailing hopes of a fast release of the convicted. This may expose the detainee and their family for corruption from the prison administration. Nonetheless, it is also evident that such solidarity from the family does wane away for many of the incarcerated. Consequently, youth in conflict with the law does not get emotional and psychological as well as material support from their families. Research of cases that the YMCA has been involved with in the previous Youth Justice phases clearly reveals that the youth in conflict with the law does not receive any kind of livelihood support where there is continued estrangement from family and community.

Community and friends

Youth in conflict with the law in prison typically loses the ability to stay in touch not just with family but also with friends. Youth in conflict with the law are often labelled as undesirable and beside the stigma affecting the relationships, prison facilities offer few possibilities to contact the outside world in a good way. Finding friends in prison is one of the main coping mechanisms available. In some countries, youth and adults are not separated often resulting in a strong bond between heavier criminal adult inmates and a young person. The internal system among inmates is typically arranged in a way that the person with the longest sentence is given a leadership role and the young inmates have nothing to do than to follow his/her order. In some countries like South Africa, the gang system in society is simply continued in the prison system. Those who were not part of a gang prior to their sentence, are forced to join a gang in prison, simply to survive.

Access to religion/faith

Youth in conflict with the law are free to practice their religion when held in detention and/or prison. In most prisons priests and Imams are the only external visitors who are allowed to interact with the inmates. Although Bibles or other religious books (and books in general) are typically not available for the inmates, religion and religious actors may become one of the more important emotional supports in lack of family or friends.

AREA 2: ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF SCHOOL

In general, the majority of young people who enter prisons also have dropped out of school. There are seldom mechanisms provided that would ensure education for inmates who are incarcerated during their school years or to receive any other type of education. Like other rights, the right to education is neglected in the context of prisons. Many young people in conflict with the law are met with scepticism and contempt by the justice and prison system delegitimizing their potential interest in schooling and education. Moreover, the budget meant to focus on educational services is usually limited, making educational service inaccessible or non-existent.

Even when schooling is a possibility, many do not seem to consider this option. Less than 1 000 inmates in 2018 in South Africa, out of a prison population of 160 000, were enrolled in completing their high school education. Corruption and criminal involvement inside the prison system means that many educational services are limited to

²² In Togo, more than 70% of prisoners do not receive any family support.

gang members or others in control or in close connections to corrupt prison wardens. That way, getting access to further education becomes an entry point for recruitment of new gang members.

AREA 3: ACCESS TO PUBLIC SERVICES AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES

Very little attention is being given to the issues of juveniles in prison and few changes have been made in policies for realization of human rights of young offenders. Youth, arrested or accused of an offence, are commonly put in pre-trial detention for several months, often with no access to protection through a lawyer and often without informing his/her family. Youth in pre-trial detention are in many countries put together with adults who have committed violent crimes, and levels of violence against children and youth is very high.

The prisons in the countries selected suffer from being 200% to 400% of their intended capacity, which results in poor access to nutrition, safety and hygiene. In Togo, the conditions are in such a state that 12 persons in prisons die every year. The Malagasy penal system is dysfunctional, taking years for prisoners to be sentenced²³. The rights of *not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman, or degrading punishment* (Article 5) and *to be presumed innocent until proven guilty according to law in a public trial which he/she has had all the guarantees necessary for his defence* (Article 11) are generally violated in the contexts of the programme.

There are gaps between the legal framework and implementation of the laws. In Ghana for example, the Juvenile Justice Act prescribes that minors in conflict with the law should be kept in remand homes and if there are no such homes available, they should be sent back to their parents for custody. However, young people are often kept in jails together with adults.

Very few prisons can offer leisure activities for their inmates. In some countries it is not permitted for detainees to have personal belongings within the prisons. Routines, communication with the outside world and stimulating activities are thus taken away from young people. This can also be seen as a way for the authorities to punish those who misbehave or as a manifestation of power. In a similar manner, even where leisure activities are available, they are kept inaccessible for inmates.

AREA 4: INCOME POSSIBILITIES AND ACCESS TO ADULT LEARNING

For youth in conflict with the law who are in detention and in prison income possibilities do exist but to a limited degree. In most cases products produced in prison can be sold in the nearby marketplaces. However, not all prisons do provide such opportunities. Only a small minority of prisons can provide vocational training or life-skills training.

DUTY BEARERS

AREA 1: FAMILY AND COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS

Families

Families are a so-called moral duty bearer with the duty of ensuring livelihood and development for children and youth. Experience during the previous phases tell that many families in the context of the programme have low capacity to fully support all their children due to lack of financial means, heavy workload, physical and mental health etc. These factors make the families fragile, and the youth exposed to negative influences or consequences. When the fragile family structures crumble, the moral duty of the family towards young people collapses. As soon as parental authority weakens, the young person is at risk since the influence of peers is reinforced. In a context

²³ In ten years, the incarceration rate has risen by 21%. January 2009 – 17 657 prisoners; 31 January 2019 – 26 774 prisoners. (Service d'exploitation des données pénitentiaires, Direction de l'administration pénitentiaire/Prison Data Processing Service, Department of Prison Administration, Senegal)

where the national ministries of social development/welfare/protection (or the like) do not provide sufficient support to families in difficult livelihoods, the consequences are that the number of young people with lacking socioeconomic opportunities grow, more young people drop out of school and are not able to adhere to a different path other than seeking for economic opportunities on the streets.

Ministries of social development/welfare/protection

Very few countries in the programme have efficient social protection systems. Due to weak administrative capacity of the responsible ministries of social development/welfare/protection (or the like), the support provided builds heavily on personal relations with the administrators in charge. Corruption within the social support system is widespread and affects the people and families that remain outside of the established relationship structures with the relevant administrations. Moreover, support is often given to a family rather than to individuals, which makes the youth at risk and youth in conflict with the law extremely vulnerable due to their, most of times, tense relationship with their family. In cases when such grants are awarded, they are often small²⁴ leaving a lot of families in a vulnerable state. Thus, the right to standard of living for health and wellbeing and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness etc (Article 25 of UDHR) is often absent.

Ministries of justice

Although ministries of justice are responsible for the preparation of reintegration of youth in conflict with the law, little is done in this regard to maintain the family relationships of people in detention and former inmates. For example, the Westville Prison in Durban, South Africa has a prison population of 14,000 with 10 social workers. The overwhelming task these social workers face often results in mental health issues of the social workers, which further exacerbates the problem of upholding the moral and legal rights of inmates.

AREA 2: ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF SCHOOL

Ministries of education

In all countries selected in this intervention the ministries of education struggle to secure access to education for all groups of youth and to maintain good quality of education. Poverty and traditional patriarchal structures prevent large groups of young people from accessing school, this is particularly alarming in rural areas and for young women. According to a UN estimation, only 60% of young girls enrol to school in Sub-Saharan Africa. Another challenge is the high number of primary school-dropouts, estimated in 2012 by UNESCO to be 58% of Sub-Saharan Africa. The figure is even higher among young girls. Parental education is the single most determinant factor of youth education outcomes.

The colonial and apartheid legacy of the countries in the programme is visible in that schools in many rural areas or informal settlements lack resources and/or are overcrowded with a lack of qualified teachers. The environments of schools are thus unsafe with teachers and school authorities themselves struggling in their daily lives. The context and the lack of possibilities to change and develop makes the duty bearers predatory. The power relations between teachers and students can thus result in sexual exploitation and harassment, which is also one of many cases of corruption.

Very little funding is given towards training of young people to acquire useful skills during their time in detention or prison. This defeats the prison's purposes of reintegration into the society. Although some countries, like South Africa, do have a progressive legal framework that entails possibilities to education in prisons²⁵, gaps in implementation of laws are big.

²⁴ E.g. only R445 (ca. \$26) per month per child in South Africa. The Department of social development is responsible for providing support to the poorest families in the society. Currently this department provides financial support through grants, to about 16 million people out of a population of 56 million. There are four major social security grants for children in South Africa: The Disability Grant, the Child Support Grant, the Foster Child Grant and the Care Dependency Grant.

²⁵ *The Nelson Mandela Rules* document advocates clearly for education of all offenders (Rule 4 point 2).

The provision of vocational or adult training by authorities is often disconnected from reality and from the structures of education at lower levels (i.e. primary and secondary school). Thus, even if vocational/adult training are being promoted, they are still inaccessible for vulnerable young people since training often only caters to those with basic education.

AREA 3: ACCESS TO PUBLIC SERVICES AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES

Ministries of justice/police

The ministries of justice/police are responsible for ensuring access to courts and police authorities as well as quality of prison environment such as sanitation and medication and the services provided to the inmate such as vocational training and leisure activities. Nonetheless, youth at risk and in conflict with the law are often treated without dignity by the police and other legal authorities. Arbitrary arrests, corruption and lack of legal protections are some of the challenges within these authorities.

Of the world's twenty most crowded prisons, almost half are in Africa. Overcrowding in prisons is often caused by poor governance leading to slow modernization of justice systems and inadequate expansion of prison infrastructure. In the same manner as access to school, overcrowding of prison facilities makes it very hard to provide any public services such as healthcare and/or free spaces for leisure. It also means few chances of emotional, intellectual or physical activities for the targeted groups of this programme.

African Union

In 2015, state members of the African Union ratified *Agenda 2063*, the continent's blueprint for development and growth. The Agenda is based on seven key Aspirations, with Aspiration 3 specifically based on ensuring democratic values, practices, universal principles of human rights, justice and the rule of law are entrenched. It is linked to the Sustainable Development Goal Number 16. Institutionally, the AU has invested in the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights as was established by the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (also known as the Banjul Charter). The Banjul Charter is an international human rights instrument that is intended to promote and protect human rights and basic freedoms in the African continent including the rights of people in incarceration. In regard to these particular rights, the Commission has issued several guidelines and instruments in efforts to reform the penal system in Africa²⁶. According to the African Union, prison authorities have an obligation to ensure that the suffering involved in the places of detention does not exceed the level inherent in the deprivation of liberty. Secondly, while in detention, prisoners should be able to enjoy a great part of their human rights, including the right to physical and moral integrity, the right to express their opinion, to have contact with their family, amongst others, even if some of these rights are partially controlled by state authorities. Despite these instruments, the conditions of prisons in Africa remain poor with evidence of gross violations of human rights in these facilities.

Ministries of health

Through the previous phases of Youth Justice, it is evident that local clinics often lack knowledge and regularly deny youth at risk the health care needed. This stands directly in contrast to human rights and the responsibilities taken by the ministries of health that are responsible for providing access to health for all. Furthermore, youth at risk and youth in conflict with the law are often excluded from sexual and reproductive health educational programmes. This results in high numbers of teenage pregnancies and spread of sexually transmitted diseases. Sexual harassments and rape are not only not being prevented, through education on sexual and reproductive health among other factors, but it is also worsened by the authorities' lacking understanding and engagement.

²⁶ Including the 1997 resolution on the Right to Recourse Procedure and Fair Trial, the Kampala Declaration on Prison Conditions in Africa, the 2002 Resolution on Guidelines and Measures for the Prohibition and Prevention of Torture, Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment in Africa, the 2002 Ouagadougou Plan of Action, and the 2003 Principles and Guidelines on the Rights to a Fair Trial and Legal Assistance in Africa.

Ministries of youth/sports/culture

The ministries of youth/sports/culture (or the like) are responsible for supporting centres and organizations providing activities aimed to support youth development. However, these ministries implement their activities with little or no participation/interaction with youth or youth organizations. It is evident, through experiences during the previous phases of the programme, that the ministries lack knowledge, will and funding to include all sub-groups of youth, including the underprivileged groups such as young women or youth in conflict with the law. While many countries have a legal framework that provides a good basis for working with provision of public services to youth at risk/youth in conflict with the law, it is evident that other priorities are being made by the authorities who are often highly constrained in terms of resources. Notwithstanding the agenda and priorities set by the African Union, many countries lack in provision of public services to youth at risk and youth in conflict with the law. The people and personnel implementing laws upon citizens and society, such as social workers or the police, have inadequate training, education or experience and are unaware of the existing laws that they are supposed to represent. This makes the given legal framework toothless to tackle the situation and its problems. It is clear that the underprivileged and stigmatized young people have even less possibilities to affect their situation. For example, legal representation of juveniles, although stipulated in law in many countries, is not fully implemented by the police and lacks structure.

AREA 4: INCOME POSSIBILITIES AND ACCESS TO ADULT LEARNING

Ministries of employment/vocational and technical training

Ministries working with employment, vocational and technical training (or the like) are responsible for providing training to youth at risk and support reintegration of youth released from prison. However, ministries of employment have little or no access to the youth they are supposed to support. The ministries working with women & persons with disabilities are responsible for empowering young women. In most countries this support is through targeted training and income possibilities. The interaction between the different ministries is often weak or minimal resulting in them operating in silos. There is a clear lack of policies to support the informal sector in which the proportion of women is high²⁷.

Ministry of local development/youth

The ministry of local development/youth (and the like) are, in some cases, running projects in support of young entrepreneurs. Unfortunately, young people at risk and those in conflict with law cannot access these programs because they do not fit the selection criteria which are based on average level of education, submission of a business plan, capability to invest in an income generative activity etc. Thus, those without a minimal buffer capital are never reached by these programmes making their possibilities scarce.

There are examples of large government youth employment projects, e.g. in South Africa, that are connected to political affiliations. Unfortunately, these projects have a history of being corrupt. In a similar manner, other governmental projects and initiatives have been seen to be ineffective. As an example, the Government of Ghana initiated irrigation facilities in rural areas that would ensure greater possibilities for farming. However, the initiative has not yielded any useful results due to other critical assumptions that have not been handled, like shortages of water supplies. Therefore, young people still continue to migrate to urban areas in search of work.

CIVIL SOCIETY ACTORS

In the absence of a strong government support net, faith-based groups and non-profit organizations play a large role in supporting vulnerable youth. Such groups often become the main moral duty bearer in a young person's life and fill the absence of family support. However, the void of a moral beacon for many of youth at risk/in conflict with the law can also be filled by extremist groups, especially when conflicts related to communal or religious violence exist within the adjacent proximity. The value of an organization like the YMCA, which has a strong value-

²⁷ CEDAW, report Madagascar 2015.

based mission and is open to all young people in society, cannot be underestimated. In some countries across Africa, faith-based organizations are provided access to prisons on the basis that they do not advocate against the prison system in any way. While this might seem to compromise the concept of freedom of speech, the YMCA most often chooses to accept these conditions because it gives the organization access to many young people who would otherwise be completely alone.

International Human Rights Law assures the important role played by civil society organizations in the prison context. *The United Nations Standard Minimum Rules in the Treatment of Prisoners* stresses that prison staff should liaise with civil society and provide public information on a regular basis. CSOs are the direct representatives of citizen participation in the provision of public services, more so in prison facilities, keeping in mind that efficiency in democracy is directly associated with the level of citizens' participation.

The level of activity of the civil society and community-based organizations differ between the countries in the programme, depending on the historical institutions, level of democracy, adherence to democratic principles and other factors. There are some cases of CSOs in the selected countries who advocate for changes in the penalty arrangements and prison configuration. This could help many detainees and defendants to benefit from existing facilities that are commonly being denied and, in the long run, to facilitate successful reintegration of the youth into the society. Other CSOs employ public advocacy to seek for improved welfare for the youth at risk. The South African Council for Counselling and Drug Dependence (SANCA), for example, offers free services to young people to get help with their addiction. However, the majority of CSOs working with human rights issues do not target youth at risk or youth in conflict with the law, and when they do, offered training is commonly too short-term, missing out on important areas such as accounting and management, financial management, market research, etc.

CSOs are raising the issue of access to income opportunities and education for adults through advocacy. Access to income and training opportunities for adults is at the heart of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR). At the national level, CSOs are organizing to demand better implementation of these rights through citizen initiatives. At the regional level, events are organized to appeal for improvement of ESCRs. For example, in 2018 in Lomé, on the side-lines of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) summit, 36 civil society organizations of the two community spaces had drawn the attention of the heads of state and heads of government gathered in Lomé to the deep concerns of the populations. According to these organizations, social vulnerability, the loss of confidence in the protective capacity of the state at the social level and the neglect of youth by politicians all constitute factors which facilitate the emergence of radical citizen movements, armed rebellions, and terrorist groups in the two sub-regions.

3. PROBLEM STATEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT GOAL

We believe that: young people play an important and positive role in maintaining and promoting democratic, peaceful, equal and sustainable societies.

However: Young people lack the voice, space and ability to influence those in authority. Due to a mix of poor governance, corruption and lack of accountability and denial of services - duty bearers in the countries selected fail to respond to the challenges that youth are facing and actively prevent youth from claiming their rights. This has an impact of not enabling youth to reach their full potential and enjoy active citizenship.

Youth at risk and *youth in conflict with the law* are two groups of youth, commonly neglected by their societies, who are facing extensive challenges to claim their rights. These two groups of youth not only face multidimensional challenges linked to poverty and disadvantaged communities, that are described in the Context Analysis, but also lack tools and support needed to be able to handle challenges associated growing up in a poor community. This inability to meet challenges can result in destructive and illegal coping mechanisms that has consequences on an individual but also on a societal level.

Consequently, within this intervention our goal is: Youth at risk and youth in conflict with the law are empowered by gaining strengthened individual resilience. This includes the ability to cope with stresses and shocks in four key areas in their life – family and community relationships, school, public services & leisure activities and income opportunities & adult learning. Strengthened individual resilience is a prerequisite for the targeted groups to be able to influence those in authority.

The development goal of the intervention stems from the *UNSCR 2250 on Youth Peace and Security* and contributes to a number of the *UN Sustainable Development Goals* - number 16, 4, 3, 5, 17, 8, 10²⁸. During the final year of the intervention, dedicated work will be implemented to promote and strengthen the partners capacity to address Climate Action (SDG #13) and Life on Land (SDG #15).

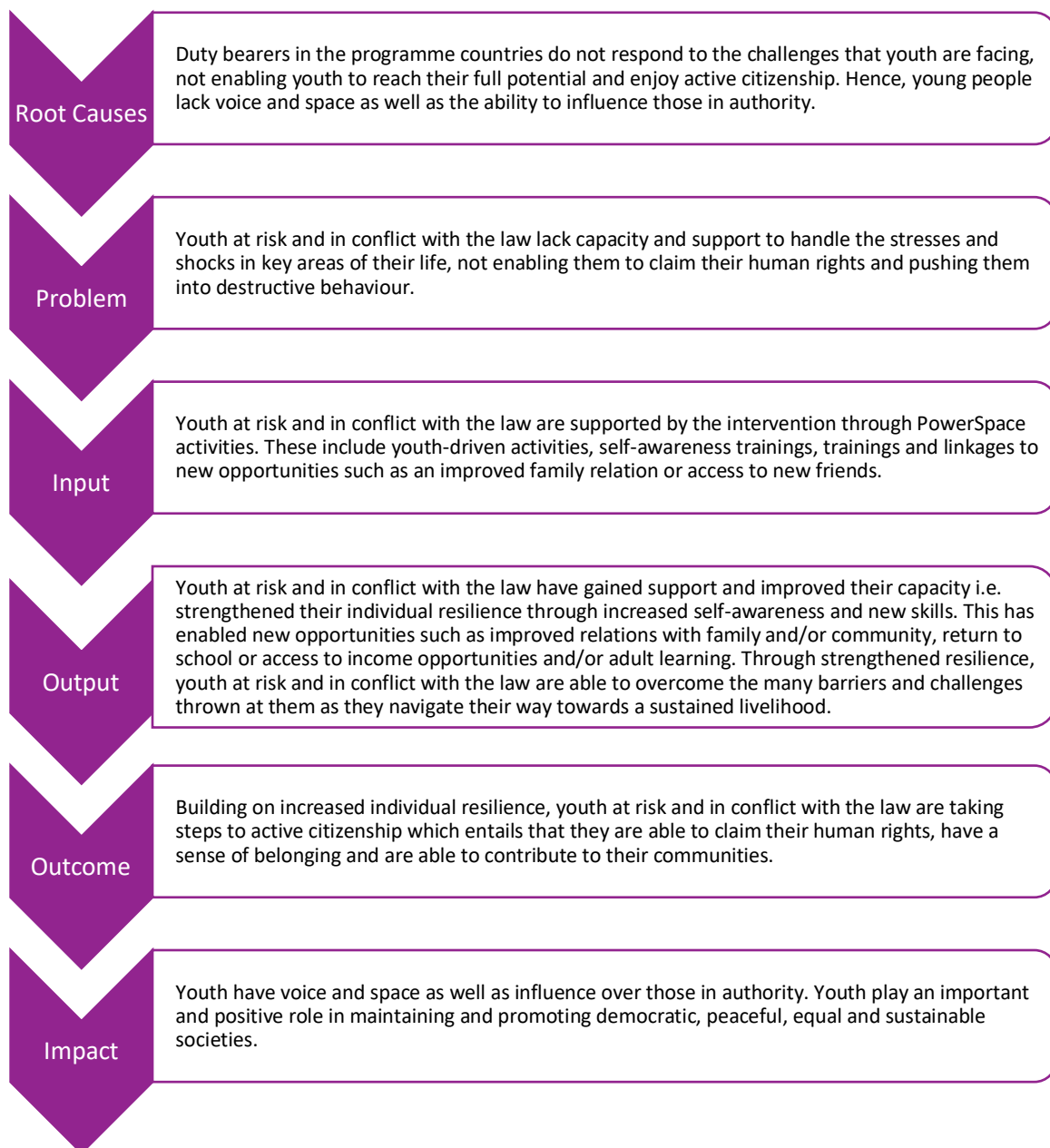
4. INTERVENTION

INTERVENTION DESIGN AND STRATEGY

THEORY OF CHANGE

The dialogue around project and programme *theory of change* was at the focus during Youth Justice II. It has resulted in a high capacity to monitor, communicate and evaluate an intervention through a theory of change. All partners in the intervention are encouraged to develop their own theory of change and to continue to develop it (due to new knowledge or to adapt to changes in the context). The current theory of change of the Youth Justice programme can be summarized through the following chain:

²⁸ See [Intervention Goals and Objectives](#) for a description of each SDG.



INTERVENTION GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

This intervention deliberately shares the goal and objectives of the ongoing Youth Justice phase II (2018-2020). This is in order to be able to monitor and aggregate results and take advantage of well-established objectives in discussions during joint programme meetings. That said, this intervention phase will place stronger emphasis on intermediate objective no 5 (Youth Justice capacity) compared to Youth Justice II, due to the aim of YWCA-YMCA of Sweden to phase out the support to Youth Justice during the period.

The objectives of the programme are focused on contributing to strengthening resilience for the target groups of the intervention. This intervention defines resilience as *the ability to manage and cope with stresses and shocks that emerge in the life of the target groups*. The challenges linked to the four key areas of the intervention, highlighted and analysed in the context section, affect the level of resilience of the target group. The coping mechanisms available or chosen (substance abuse, petty crime, gangs etc) are in many cases short term and/or destructive. This intervention strives towards empowering youth by making healthy and long-term coping strategies available, such as inner strength/self-awareness, ability to claim their Human Rights, skills training,

mentorships etc. Furthermore, an equally important component is to improve the legal and cultural structures that influence a young person's ability to be an active citizen.

Development goal

Young people have the voice, space and ability to influence those in authority with the aim to empower young people for the African Renaissance.

The Youth Justice development goal of this intervention originates from the Subject to Citizen philosophy (S2C) developed and adopted by all African YMCAs in 2008. The long-term objective of the S2C is "to empower young people for the African Renaissance²⁹". This is done through equipping young people with a *voice, space and ability* to influence those in authority and strengthening their position as active citizens. S2C includes four interrelated components of youth empowerment: Economic Renaissance, Civic Action, Transformative Masculinity and Youth Justice.

Programme objective

Youth in conflict with the law and those at risk of offending have taken steps towards active citizenship in all programme countries. This objective comprises developed individual resilience of the target groups, duty bearers taking target groups into consideration and strengthened civil society, such as the national YMCA movements being able to influence duty bearers and individuals.

Active citizenship consists of a willingness and an ability to take on responsibility, claim one's human rights and make a positive contribution to the family, community, YMCA and country. The objective of creating active citizenship among the target groups involves empowering the individual, advocating towards the establishment of youth friendly societal structures and enabling the YMCAs to remain relevant youth actors in their countries. As described in the Theory of Change, active citizenship will be achieved through focusing on individual resilience (captured in the intermediate objective 1-3), advocacy (captured in the intermediate objective 4) and by strengthening the capacity of the partner organizations (captured in the intermediate objective 5).

Intermediate objectives

The programme objective will be reached through five intermediate objectives (iO)³⁰:

- *iO1: Those at risk of offending have strengthened their resilience.*
The first intermediate objective targets youth at risk. Resilience is strengthened through YMCA activities (sports, culture, camps etc) that: strengthen the individual's self-awareness and self-esteem by equipping the individual with new skills (including to quit substance abuse); support the individual to find new friends and youth groups; support the individual's ability to contribute to their family and community by supporting the relation between these parties; and increases the access to Human Rights such as health care and legal protection.
Target: 10 000 youth at risk.
- *iO2: Those in conflict with the law have strengthened their resilience.*
The second intermediate objective targets youth in conflict with the law - youth who are either in detention, probation or prison. Resilience is strengthened through: greater access to legal support for the target group; setting up and strengthening rehabilitation activities in prison such as psychosocial support and skills-training; and by supporting the youth to plan their life after a release from detention or prison through e.g. YMCA life skills training.
Target: 5 200 youth in conflict with law.

²⁹ The concept that African citizens shall overcome current challenges confronting the continent and achieve cultural, scientific, economic renewal. For YMCAs in Africa, the African Renaissance includes that young African citizens are driving cultural, social, economic and political change from community to international levels.

³⁰ Examples of expected results on project/country level are listed in Annex 9.

- *iO3: Youth at risk post release from prison have strengthened their resilience.*
The third intermediate objective targets youth at risk post release from prison - youth who have been released from prison. The main goal of this intermediate objective is that the targeted individual avoids recidivism and is successfully reintegrated into society. To do that, they need resilience which is strengthened by YMCA through: supporting the individual to settle with their family and community; giving the individual platforms to find new friends and youth groups; and equipping the individuals with new skills to help finding employment opportunities.
Target: 500 youth at risk post release from prison.
- *iO4: Duty bearers in all programme countries have taken measures to improve access to Human Rights, prevention and reintegration of the target groups.*
The fourth intermediate objective targets all duty bearers and authorities who have an influence on the relevant youth group's abilities to enjoy active citizenship. Through advocacy work of the civil society and the YMCA movements, duty bearers have taken measures to improve prevention of, reintegration of and access to Human Rights for the target groups. These measures include: establishment of a rehabilitation policy; improved prison administration; strengthened coordination between different duty bearers; providing resources for youth activities; and recognition of and actions to end gender-based violence.
- iO5: All programme partners have increased their capacity: working with Youth Justice, a Rights based approach, and to carry-out youth-led climate and environmental project.*
The fifth intermediate objective targets the implementing YMCAs. The main goal is to strengthen their organizational capacity through: strengthening the branch levels of the organizations; supporting the integration of Youth Justice on a strategic and operational level in order to make Youth Justice more sustainable; strengthening youth driven activities within the YMCA; and strengthening the capacity to integrate Transformative Masculinity into the YMCA Youth Justice life skills trainings. An additional goal, developed in 2022, is that all programme partners have strengthened their capacity. This goal includes that all partners during the final year of the program have gained new knowledge on how to engage youth in sustainable initiatives related to environment and climate work on grassroots level.

Sustainable Development Goals

The Youth Justice programme contributes to several of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The main ones are:

- **SDG 3.** Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages: “Strengthen the prevention of (...) drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol.”
- **SDG 4.** Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all: “Ensure that all learners acquire knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development (...) through education for (...) human rights, gender equality, promotion of culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity (...).”
- **SDG 5.** Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls: “End all forms of discrimination against women and girls.”
- **SDG 8.** Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all: “Substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training.”
- **SDG 10.** Reduce inequality within and among countries: “Empower and promote social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status.”
- **SDG 13.** Take action to combat climate change and its impacts.
- **SDG 15.** Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

- **SDG 16.** Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels: “Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision making at all levels.”
- **SDG 17.** Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development: “Enhance international support for (...) capacity building in developing countries to support national plans to implement SDGs, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation.”

Youth Peace and Security - UNSCR 2250

The United Nations adopted the resolution on Youth Peace and Security in December 2015. The resolution recognizes that young people play an important and positive role in the maintenance and promotion of international peace and security. The UNSCR 2250 identifies five key pillars for action: participation, protection, partnerships and disengagement and reintegration. All these pillars have been at the core of Youth Justice ever since the programme was designed and established in 2014-2015. In 2018 the World YMCA took on the task to strengthen YMCAs capacity to advocate towards UNSCR 2250. Within the Youth Justice programme partners, a shared ambition for the third phase is to further tighten and strengthen the link between the Youth Justice programme and UNSCR 2250.

KEY METHODS

THE YOUTH JUSTICE FRAMEWORK

Prior to Youth Justice I (2015-2017), no regional programme existed. Therefore, a lot of effort was made to develop a common Youth Justice framework that could be adopted by YMCAs regardless of the context in their countries. The framework still remains and forms the basis of this intervention. Significant for the framework is that it captures a holistic way of addressing the problems the target groups are facing – including family and community support, individual support and advocacy towards government and authorities. The framework is designed so that it can be adopted in different Youth Justice contexts. The Youth Justice framework is summarized in Figure 1. The red triangles in the figure represent areas where YMCA or a YMCA partner operates in order to support the three target groups (illustrated in the blue boxes in the figure).

POWERSPACE

The overall method in this intervention is a process called PowerSpace. This method was developed by African Alliance of YMCAs through several youth-led workshops. PowerSpace has only in a few years received broad

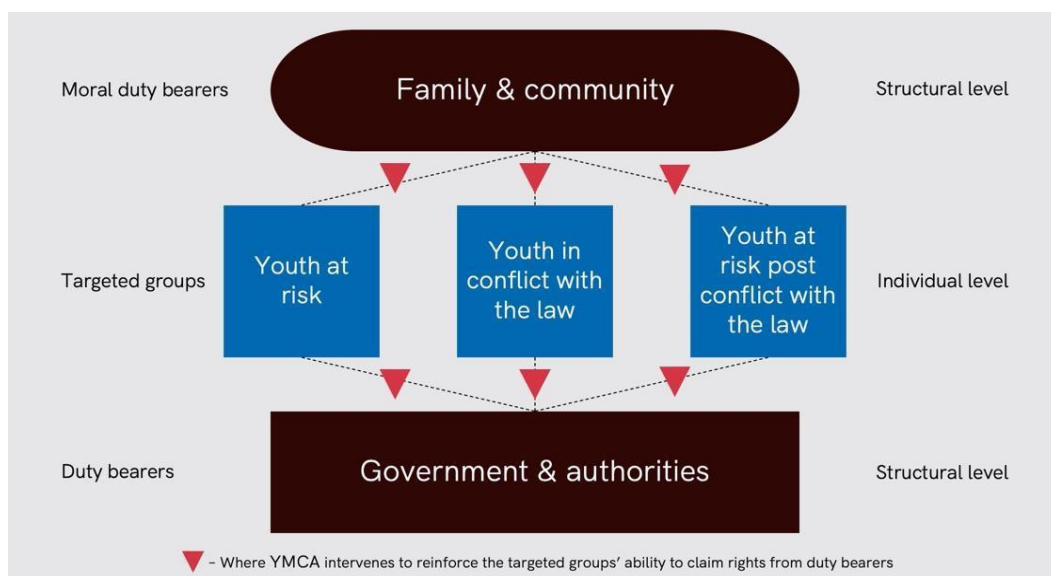


Figure 1. The Youth Justice framework.

acknowledgement by the national YMCA movements. Youth Justice II (2018-2020) was one of the first programmes within the African YMCA movements where PowerSpace was introduced with the aim of integrating it into all projects.

One of the key aspects of the PowerSpace methods is that it links typical YMCA methods such as training, workshops and youth-led activities (camps, sport, culture activities) into a powerful holistic method. All methods and activities included in this intervention aimed towards strengthening the resilience against shocks and stresses of the target groups will fit into and contribute to the four stages/levels of PowerSpace: engaging youth through appealing activities, building self-awareness, building skills and linking with opportunities.

PowerSpace can also be used as a monitoring and evaluation tool when strengthening the capacity of YMCA branches. All local branches included in this intervention will be assessed through the PowerSpace framework in the beginning of the intervention in order to establish a baseline. The objective is that all branches by the end of the intervention will have sustainable activities linked to all three of the PowerSpace levels. The key areas influencing a young person's life identified and described in the context chapter will be addressed through the PowerSpace making use of the key activities listed below in the Key Activities chapter. The PowerSpace framework is summarised in Figure 2.

Within the PowerSpace method several of the signature/key YMCA methods will be used:

- **Peer-to-peer training & workshops**
Training in order to improve knowledge and skills will still be one of the core methods. We will also use peer-to-peer training. One key challenge in the intervention is to develop the training so that they can adjust to a digital era. This is not only a matter of better use of technology but also to learn how to best communicate to a target group with a substantial digital based identity/influence. Training is one of the key components of the PowerSpace framework.
- **Youth driven activities**
YMCA is advocating all around the world for youth to be included in decision making and to foster youth driven initiatives. In this intervention this method is vital. We believe that it is not possible to generate active citizenship without having experience of decision-making and responsibility.
- **Exchange meetings**
Another key YMCA method is to enable youth to meet and exchange experiences. This method is at core also in this intervention. YMCA enables youth meeting places (safe spaces), camps, annual meetings and workshops/conferences.
- **Body Mind Spirit**
A final key YMCA method in this intervention is the Body Mind Spirit approach to personal development. These are symbolized by the YMCA red triangle. Body represents the ambition to enable youth access to

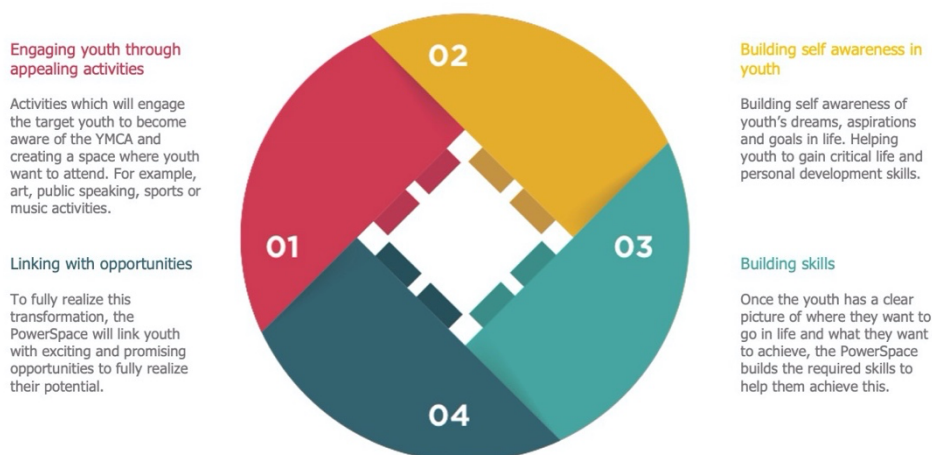


Figure 2. The PowerSpace approach.

physical exercise, Mind represents the ambition to enable youth to increase their knowledge and skills and Spirit represents the ambition to support spiritual reflection and growth. Body is at core in the first step of the PowerSpace – to offer activities appealing to youth, and it is often the entry point for a young person. Mind and Spirit will be covered in the second and third steps of PowerSpace – self-awareness and skills.

THEORETIC FRAMEWORK AND RESEARCH

To develop and use common frameworks and to make use of existing analytical tools/theories has been important in order to develop the programme. This intervention is designed out of a common framework. Research and theories such as resilience analysis, criminology theories and citizenship models are used in order to jointly discuss and develop the programme. The Youth Justice programme we make use of the most recognized criminology theories in order to address the challenges the target groups are facing. They all provide helpful tools in understanding the context. The theories that are used in this programme include: Social Control Theory, Social Pressure Theory, Self-Control Theory, Social Learning Theory, The Routine Activity Theory, Labelling Theory.

KEY ACTIVITIES

During the second phase of Youth Justice, we introduced an adaptive approach focusing on the expected result and encouraged each partner to monitor the efficiency and effectiveness of various activities, but also to adjust if/when the context changed. During the COVID-19 outbreak all partners could adapt to the new challenges through a number of new activities aimed to strengthen the resilience of the target groups. That being said, all projects in the intervention share a number of key activities. They aim to address the challenges and obstacles of the target group to claim their rights highlighted through the four key areas in the context analysis. The key activities listed below in Table 1 are an operationalisation of the methods and the set intermediate objectives. **The activities linked to climate and environment components that will be carried out in 2023 (called Green Ideas), marked in yellow in the box, are further described in the budget section below (under the headline Programme Development)).**

iO1 (Youth at risk)	iO2 (Youth in conflict with the law)	iO3 (Youth at risk, post release)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Youth lead activities (sports, culture) ○ Establishing youth spaces (safe spaces such as youth centres) ○ Providing psychosocial support ○ Working with family reconciliation³¹ ○ Youth-lead initiatives (e.g. peacemaking groups, local action groups etc.) ○ Youth-led workshops (e.g. 3i trainings) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Providing legal support through e.g. legal clubs ○ Providing life skills training (including SRHR and Transformative Masculinity) ○ Providing various vocational trainings (carpentry, bricklayer, entrepreneurship etc) ○ Providing psychosocial support ○ Working with family reconciliation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Providing various vocational trainings (carpentry, bricklayer, entrepreneurship etc) ○ Providing life skills training (including SRHR and Transformative Masculinity) ○ Providing psychosocial support ○ Working with family reconciliation ○ Providing possibilities to exercise sports/culture/etc. ○ Providing linkages to income opportunities ○ Providing start-up support (entrepreneurship)

³¹ The work to support the families of the target group individuals differs among the projects within the program. The main objective of the support is to re-establish a recognition of the child by the parents and the community. This is done through a process where YMCA acts as a mediator between the two parts but also monitors the progress of the relationship.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Providing various vocational trainings (carpentry, bricklayer, entrepreneurship etc) ○ Providing start-up support (linked to the trained entrepreneurs) ○ Providing life skills trainings (incl. SRHR and Transformative Masculinity) ○ Providing linkages to income opportunities ○ Supporting access to drug rehabilitation 		
<p>iO4 (Advocacy)</p>	<p>iO5 (Capacity Development & Sustainability)</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Running task force groups (e.g. with authorities and CSOs) ○ Arranging round table meetings (with relevant duty bearers and other) ○ Arranging Zoom-seminars (on GBV, 2250 etc) ○ Submitting reports as a basis for dialogue with duty bearers (evidence-based advocacy) ○ Monitoring budget and policies of relevant authorities ○ Establishing partnerships with relevant actors in order to expand the scope and level of advocacy ○ Running campaigns at different levels ○ Implementing youth-lead and youth-driven advocacy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Providing trainings in Youth Justice, HRBA and resilience to other national organizations, local branches and among the cooperation partners ○ Preparing and writing proposals to establish new partnerships and extend funding ○ Strengthening communication capacity through developing digital platforms and visual media ○ Contracting a climate and environmental expert to carry out the trainings and to provide input to the pilot project and the publication. ○ Carry out three (3) youth trainings on environment and climate action on grassroots level (a total of 60 youth) ○ Implementing three (3) youth-led pilot projects on natural resource management/carbon neutrality, livelihood and biodiversity ○ Developing one (1) written publication on best practices on youth-led solutions on natural resource management/carbon neutrality, livelihood and biodiversity ○ Developing methods and strategies including a framework of sharing best practice among the cooperation partners ○ Development of Transformative Masculinity, spreading the competence and knowledge on the method among the cooperation partners ○ Further integrating PowerSpace through validated learning ○ Implementing youth-lead workshops (so called 3i trainings) 	

Table 1. Key activities for Youth Justice III.

CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

Multidimensional poverty

The objective to strengthen the resilience of youth at risk of offending and youth in conflict with the law involves addressing the multidimensions of poverty highlighted in the context analysis: family/community relations, access to school and public/leisure services and access to income possibilities and adult learning.

Gender equality

In this intervention gender equality is mainstreamed. By this we mean that gender equality shall be part of all planning, implementation and evaluations of the intervention. Monitoring shall always take into account if and how the activity was accessible to all and what the end result was in terms of gender equality both in terms of participation and level of influence/power. A majority of the Youth Justice target group are men. This is linked to the fact that young men globally, and in Africa, are overrepresented among the group at risk of offending and in conflict with the law. However, the intervention will also include young women from all three target groups in the intervention, including women prison inmates.

Within the Youth Justice programme, the intervention aims to address the root causes of gender inequality, such as power relations related to gender. To do that, the intervention plans to:

- Further strengthen the knowledge regarding the linkage between gender, gender-based violence and resilience. Increased knowledge on the link between gender and resilience will be sought through case-studies/interviews, research and by encouraging innovative activities within Transformative Masculinity.
- Continue integrating and deepening the cooperation between Transformative Masculinity and Youth Justice projects and developing our learning on this issue, especially within AAYMCA.
- Influence the norms, values, attitudes and behaviours of all men reached/targeted within this intervention towards fostering gender equality.
- Include a gender aspect in the youth trainings on environment and climate action.

Environment and climate change

The knowledge on environment and climate are generally low among the partner organizations, especially on a local level. The general sense is that it is an area beyond the responsibility of each individual. Local communities and even project sites are having serious environmental problems with toxic waste, dryland and rivers and lack of fresh water. Unfortunately, this intervention does not have the resources and capacity to advocate towards duty bearers for investing in sustainable climate and environmental solutions. What the intervention aims to do, however, is to strengthen the capacity of YMCA to inspire and empower young people in taking action locally and nationally on issues related to environment and climate. This will be done through a number of parallel initiatives: the YMCAs will strive to integrate other environmental projects into Youth Justice; several of the involved YMCAs have made climate and environmental awareness a strategic priority for the coming years; the AAYMCA has an ongoing broad partnership with WWF which includes youth engagement in environmental security. To further strengthen the knowledge of and youth involvement in environment and climate issues, an added investment will be made in 2023 through a partnership with a climate expert organization and by implementing youth-led pilot projects on natural resource management/carbon neutrality, livelihood and biodiversity. The key component in the pilot projects is training workshops by an external expert on environment and climate and AAYMCA.

The intervention is anticipated to have some negative impact on the climate due to the travelling linked to the project and programme activities. However, the ongoing COVID-19 crisis has also pushed the YMCA movement and the partner organizations into a direction where ongoing activities, future plans and to some extent monitoring are being readjusted and redesigned to be possible to do digitally and online. The partners within the programme are conducting new ways of activities, meetings and also M&E, which will reduce extensive transportation as well as use of materials connected to meetings and conferences such as paper on regional level. Opportunities to contribute positively to more environmentally sustainable development through the operation.

Climate & environment assessment (set questions taken from the SMC climate & environment assessment paper)

How can opportunities be strengthened?

- Strengthen the partnership between the YMCA and NGOs working with environment and climate issues, on regional, national and local level
- Strengthen the know-how within each YMCA on how youth-lead solutions can make an impact
- Strengthen the capacity to support the mobilization among young members and beneficiaries who would like to or who is already engaged in environment and climate work
- Develop the already existing work on environment and climate

How can risks be avoided, reduced and managed?

- YMCAs have the potential to improve their capacity to engage young people in the work to avoid, reduce and manage negative environmental impact.

How can risks and vulnerabilities affect the operation, partners and different target groups (women, men, boys, girls, etc.)? How can risks and vulnerabilities affect the relevance and sustainability of the operation?

How can identified risks and vulnerabilities be avoided, mitigated and managed?

- The target group, their family and communities are pushed further down in poverty due to negative climate changes such as cyclones, floodings, pollution and drought. YMCA have for many years been active in the response work (management). We believe that the impact can be reduced in some cases through improved knowledge on what is critical for developing community resilience, during floodings for example

Proposals for actions and activities to take care of the conclusions of the analysis.

- We propose to initiate a third-party partnership with an organization who are experts in climate and environmental work on local level (dec 2022)
- We suggest a training for youth in three countries (spring 2023)
- We suggest three youth-lead pilots to be implemented in three countries (second half 2023)
- We suggest collecting learnings from the work in a written publication (December 2023)

What knowledge, skills and resources are needed in the organization? Is there a need to strengthen it?

Does the organization's tools or structure need to be reviewed (e.g. environmental management system, environmental policy, guidelines, tools)?

- There is a need to strengthen the evidence-based work on environment and climate. Most of the work who is currently carried out does not have any sustainable results.
- Furthermore, action implemented are normally not initiated by the youth themselves. There is a need for the YMCAs to improve their capacity to carry out youth-driven initiatives that are focused on climate and environment issues.

Conflict sensitivity

The intervention includes conflict areas and very high risks of social and political unrest in most countries. The, at many times, dysfunctional contexts contain dividers such as Human Rights violations, as described in the context analysis, authorities' discrimination and active neglect of certain groups. Furthermore, the constellation of different languages and religious beliefs that many countries in the programme contain are also factors that can fuel conflicts within participants of the intervention. The programme context entails countries with different sizes of Christian and Muslim populations e.g. the predominantly Christian South Africa, the predominantly Muslim

Senegal and the religiously diverse Togo. Considering the Christian ground of the YMCA movement, religion as a potential divider and a delicate matter between participants and staff cannot be excluded. While the intervention is designed to acknowledge and work against these factors, there are risks that it may bring forth conflicts of interest between different disadvantaged groups or actualize feelings of iniquity in groups of population that feel that the programme is helping “criminals” or “wrong doers”. Furthermore, the intervention may also destabilize set power structures in communities if young people are drawn away from e.g. gangs, thus causing a reaction from such gangs or their leaders.

Through the integration of the five pillars of UNSCR 2250, this intervention will actively promote peace and prevent conflict in the included countries. The intervention includes several “connectors” such as youth driven projects like peace-making groups, local action groups, sports and culture events that link up youth from different backgrounds and creates a sense of belonging.

Corruption

All countries included in the intervention are heavily affected by corruption in their societies. This will have a direct effect on the intervention due to slow decision processes and sometimes a resistance to change practices in order to strengthen the target groups. The YMCAs have therefore adopted a rigid control framework in order to prevent the organizations from being negatively affected by corruption. YWCA-YMCA of Sweden also promotes the development of anti-corruption policies towards those who do not have their own. In the meantime, they are linked up to the anti-corruption policy of YWCA-YMCA of Sweden and SMC. Another deliberate measure to prevent the intervention to be affected by corruption is to create a positive team peer-pressure – to create positive social control, to create a sense of accountability towards the whole Youth Justice team. Moreover, apart from a few purchases of equipment the project budgets do not include any high budget costs linked to activities. The main programme events are coordinated by YWCA-YMCA of Sweden in partnership with a host YMCA. Furthermore, the intervention will strengthen the capacity of staff in implementing anti-corruption policies and procedures through training during the start-up workshop. Furthermore, the plan is to investigate if (and possibly implement), a common complaint mechanism/whistleblowing system for suspicions of fraud and mismanagement can be put in place that will cover all levels of the intervention (local, national, regional, international).

Freedom of religion or belief

Senegal, where a majority of the population is Muslim, is the only country included in the intervention who highlighted a concern relating to the freedom of religion of belief. The concern was the growing power of radical Islam through the influence of the Islamic Brotherhood. Due to limited resources this intervention will not address this issue specifically. No other country raised the issue of violation of religion and belief.

IMPLEMENTATION, LEARNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE AND CAPACITY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION

Non-discrimination, participation and accountability

This intervention targets youth, a group that is in various ways discriminated against in their society. Through an intersectional perspective we have identified that young girls and youth at risk and/or in conflict with the law are three groups of youth that are facing multiple discrimination. In order to empower these groups all staff needs training in order to understand the mechanism of discrimination and work in a non-discriminatory way. All activities are monitored through a gender perspective in order to minimize the risk of involuntarily discrimination towards young women. Participation of the target group is one of the main objectives of the PowerSpace method. The aim is that these shall be designed through youth inspiration, youth ideas and youth implementation. All partners are democratic organizations where the management can be held accountable to their actions. Within

the projects, accountability is supported by adopting clear roles in terms of mandates and responsibility and through making key documents accessible upon request.

Organizational structure

The partners included in this intervention are all African YMCAs with experience working with Youth Justice through the ongoing programme (Youth Justice II). The context in the selected countries regarding youth at risk and youth in conflict with the law are still alarming. Ghana YMCA is new in the sense that they have not previously designed and implemented a Youth Justice project but have closely collaborated with the other programme partners during the last couple of years. Being neighbouring countries, Ghana YMCA will also receive support from Togo YMCA.

All partners have extensive experience in carrying out development cooperation projects. The partners will be responsible for implementing and monitoring their project. YWCA-YMCA of Sweden will coordinate, monitor and provide technical support. AAYMCA will be responsible for further integrating PowerSpace into the projects and to gradually take over the coordination and development of Youth Justice.

The organizational structure of each project follows a common design. The project is coordinated by a National Youth Justice coordinator. This person is also the formal contact towards YWCA-YMCA of Sweden. He/she will be managed by a Programme Manager and the National General Secretary. All expenses typically need to be approved by one or both of these (and sometimes also the Treasurer). The activities are carried out by a local project coordinator together with YMCA youth volunteers and/or social workers through guidance of the National Youth Coordinator. The YMCAs with local branches also coordinate their activities together with a regional coordinator. The advocacy work is handled by all positions depending on the authority level targeted. Bookkeeping is handled by a financial officer with the treasurer acting as a controller. Most projects also involve a Monitoring and evaluation officer and a communication officer. Apart from these human resources the project needs offices, training spaces and youth spaces (called safe spaces). Most projects also need means of transportation. In urban areas staff and volunteers make use of public transport, in more remote areas the most common means for transportation is motorcycles. However, this intervention also includes a purchase of a car (YMCA Senegal)³².

All YMCA in this intervention make use of strategic partnerships and networks. Togo YMCA has for many years worked together with the local organization Marem in order to best support Youth At risk in Lomé. Senegal YMCA are working together with public skill centres matching youth at risk with an available and relevant training.

MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING

The national YMCAs are responsible for the project monitoring making use of a baseline study, the agreed programme indicators and, in some countries, added indicators tailored for the project. The indicators will be discussed and agreed upon during a start-up workshop. This approach was tested in the current intervention (Youth Justice II) with great success, through this approach the indicators will be better owned by the implementing partners and not seen as a “donor requirement”.

The learning from each project will be enhanced by project start-up workshops and mid-term reviews. The programme learning will mostly take place during the mid-term review and through evaluation reports/seminars linked to the evaluation of the ongoing intervention (Youth Justice II). A new idea that will be piloted during the coming years is the establishment of a regional board responsible for supporting the common learning. The idea is that the board can include external expertise as well as representatives from the Youth Justice Programme.

We plan to focus on four areas of capacity development: gender equality/Transformative Masculinity, PowerSpace and training the AAYMCA office in Youth Justice. In 2023, capacity development will also include a focus on

³² A specific motivation for the purchase can be found in the comment section of the budget for YMCA Senegal, see Annex 1.

creating youth-led solutions on environment and climate. The extra contribution for this capacity development component will include a budget for a project assistant linked to coordinating and monitoring the implementation of the trainings and pilot projects.

RISKS AND SUSTAINABILITY

RISKS

All partner countries have developed their own risk analysis. The risks of all the partner organizations were aggregated and collected into a common programme risk matrix that can be found in the Annexes. Further, YMCA-YWCA Sweden has added risks at the level of programme coordinators. The risk matrix has been shared and anchored between the partner organizations, which creates possibilities to establish common risk management strategies among the different partners and to tackle challenges that could cause risks in joint efforts.

The anticipated risks will be monitored continuously. The National Youth Justice coordinator will be responsible for integrating risk management into the implementation of the intervention. The aggregate programme matrix will be jointly discussed during the main programme events.

SUSTAINABILITY

The focus on resilience through PowerSpace aims towards equipping youth with tools that will sustain after the end of the intervention. This includes empowering not only individuals but also his/her family and community and advocating towards duty bearers.

This intervention is planned to be the third and final phase of Youth Justice. Therefore, the main focus for the phase is institutional sustainability. It will be the core theme for discussions during the start-up workshop and the mid-term review. The main objective of the first two phases, to generate common knowledge on how to address Youth Justice in an effective and efficient way, has a good chance to be reached. However, the learning about how to make the knowledge sustainable is still moderate. We have identified key areas for successful sustainability and other concepts such as S2C and PowerSpace that have proven to be sustainable. In the third phase we will actively invest in processes and projects that will make Youth Justice sustainable:

- **Strengthen AAYMCA**
During the second phase of Youth Justice, African Alliance of YMCAs had the role/responsibly to train the partners in PowerSpace and to handle knowledge-management and communication about Youth Justice to the African YMCA movement. In the third phase we plan to directly support AAYMCA to take ownership of developing Youth Justice after 2023. This will be done through intensified dialogue/mutual learning, training sessions, joint projects/campaigns and phase-out of selected areas during the final third year, such as procurement of the final evaluation and/or to host a final review meeting. We also aim to form/establish a regional advisory board working with knowledge-management. In 2023, AAYMCA will also coordinate the intra-project Green Ideas which will include the implementation of youth-led pilot projects on environment and climate.
- **Invest in YMCA branches**
During Youth Justice II we could identify that the ownership and knowledge towards Youth Justice is biased towards the head/national office in some countries. At local/branch level the project mainly involves the local coordinator and a handful of volunteers. These typically implement an agreed implementation plan developed by the national office. This system of implementation is quite effective in order to ensure a strong programmatic approach but less so when adapting to a youth driven adaptive approach. We believe that the intervention needs to invest in the local YMCA branches, making them more in line with the PowerSpace-framework and basing their Youth Justice work out of activities

appealing to youth. These activities are important in order to generate a sense of belonging, spirit and joy. However, it is a challenge since several of the partner YMCAs have a long history of a system of implementation that is controlled and owned by the head office. In the intervention we plan to select a few branches as pilot/to be prototypes, including the tree pilot projects on youth lead climate and environment planned to be carried out in 2023. To monitor the development of these will be key in the dialogue with the head office project management.

- **Communicate and establish networks with international partners**

During Youth Justice II YMCA South Africa had the expected result to phase out the support from YWCA-YMCA of Sweden/SMC. They developed a phase-out plan that is being implemented step by step. During this intervention their Youth Justice project will be co-funded by the Norwegian YMCA-YWCA's international development cooperation department Y-Global. They will gradually take over the project from year one to year three. The success of establishing the network/partnership with Y-Global will form the foundation and model for the linking of partners within the intervention with new international partners.

5. FINANCIAL SUMMARY AND CONTROL

BUDGET AND COST-EFFECTIVENESS

INTERVENTION BUDGET

All partners included in this intervention were asked to develop a concept note with a budget. These were then assessed by YWCA-YMCA of Sweden. YMCA Togo and YMCA South Africa was asked to reduce their budget compared to Youth Justice II in order for YMCA Madagascar and YMCA Senegal to scale up their Youth Justice work that started in 2018. YMCA Ghana was given the same frame as Madagascar and Senegal had during Youth Justice II. In order to invest more in the sustainability of the project, African Alliance of YMCAs was given a higher budget compared to the previous years.

Out of the budget frame, each partner developed a detailed project budget. The partner budgets were assessed by YWCA-YMCA of Sweden before they were included in the programme application and programme budget.

Partner YMCA budgets

All partner budgets are relatively "salary heavy". The national YMCA staff are a crucial part of the design as they provide support and capacity enhancement, coordinate and administer the work on all levels. Due to the substantial Advocacy work the role of the NGS is vital in many of the projects. A presentation of all positions included in each project and salary policy of each partner organisation can be found in the Annex. The YMCA South Africa project will be co-financed by the Norwegian organisation Y-Global.

The activity costs are linked to the five intermediate objectives. These include the cost for setting up the various stages of PowerSpace and indirect costs such as transport, fuel and equipment.

The exchange rates were calculated through an analysis of the exchange rate during the last three years. A three-month average was not an optimal guide to forecast the change rate due to the heavy COVID-19 influence these months.

Programme development

This budget covers the expenses needed for arranging the main programme monitoring events – start-up workshop, mid-term review and final evaluation workshop. These are vital parts of the intervention since without

them it would be a challenge to fostering programme ownership, partnership and learnings. Moreover, other international partners, such as Y-Global, will be invited/take part in the event. During Youth Justice II four movements outside the implementing partners joined the mid-term review.

This budget post also includes learning visits between partner YMCAs. This activity was introduced during Youth Justice II and generated good outcomes such as strengthening the learnings between the countries and strengthening the Youth Justice partnership and promoting stronger relationships between National movements in Africa which has the added value of building sustainable relationships and capacity.

YWCA-YMCA of Sweden plans to actively train AAYMCA in Youth Justice during the period in order to strengthen their capacity to coordinate and develop Youth Justice by the end of this intervention in 2023. This is directly linked to the intermediate objective 5 of the intervention. In order to strengthen the capacity a number of activities will be implemented including workshops, training and continuous dialogue. A project plan to accomplish this will be developed in close collaboration with AAYMCA during the first quarter of the intervention.

The evaluation budget included within this budget line covers the cost of an external evaluation of the Youth Justice programme that will be based on the project evaluations in each country, but also on the previous two phases of Youth Justice.

This budget post of program development is directly linked to fulfilling the programme objective five (iO5). Thus, in line with SMC guidelines, SMC is planned to cover 95% of this budget line.

The Programme development budget also includes the intra-project “Green Ideas”, planned to be implemented in 2023. The Green ideas budget includes costs for an expert on climate and environment work on grassroots level, three workshops/trainings and cost for implementing three youth-led pilot projects. It also includes travel costs and coordination and administration cost for AAYMCA who will oversee the implementation of Green Ideas.

- Climate & environment expert: The additional service includes that of procuring the services of a climate and environmental expert.
- Trainings sessions: This budget covers flight and accommodation costs for the facilitator and climate and environmental expert. The facilitator is in Nairobi. There will be two workshops, each lasting a week and each having 20 youth participants. This means that the combined period is two weeks with 40 different young people in total. It will be one workshop each in every country - there are 2 countries participating.
- Publication: This is a publication in form of a booklet that will capture the learnings from the workshop, data from implementation of the prototypes and analyses of the project prototypes so that these can be scaled up. This will be used as a product of the whole process, from training to implementation of the prototypes. The documents will also be used to inform future projects implemented in other countries after the project is completed.
- Youth-led environment/climate pilot projects: Pilot projects are the core of the implementation of the initiative. They will be developed by the youth participating in the training sessions and will be facilitated by the climate expert and AAYMCA facilitator. Two pilot projects will be created according to youths’ contextual understanding of the climate change issues that affect them and based on the innovativeness of the youth in delivering solutions.
- Coordination/monitoring: AAYMCA plans to recruit a project assistant to help the operationalization of the project. The Project Assistant will have mid-level expertise in climate change and will assist the Programme Coordinator in managing the project. Job description has been attached (annex 6).
- Audit: The assumption is that since the AAYMCA is responsible for the delivery of this initiative, the audit will cover all expenses by the AAYMCA, including the workshops. Additionally, in the original budget, AAYMCA did not have an audit budgeted for, and this is the amount that will cover the audits.

Programme coordination

This budget covers working hours dedicated to coordinating and monitoring the programme with a special focus on introducing the programme to the new partner YMCA Ghana and introducing new branches in Senegal and Madagascar. The main task/challenge is to make sure that all actors are working towards the same programme objectives and understand the responsibilities each actor has and to monitor the progress of the various projects. The coordination is mainly done with the national office, but every year each partner will receive at least one visit from YWCA-YMCA of Sweden. During the visits most of the time are spent together with the local coordinator and local volunteers.

The budget post of Programme Coordination is indirectly linked to the fulfilment of the programme objectives. Therefore, YWCA-YMCA of Sweden plans to cover 50% of this budget post which is in line with the SMC guidelines.

Capacity Development/Monitoring

The budget for field trainings and monitoring includes cost for flight tickets, vaccination, Visa, hotel and per diem. Working hours are not included in this budget line (working hours linked to the monitoring is included in budget for programme coordination described above). Each partner has budgeted to carry out a final evaluation of their project. The monitoring budget also include costs to develop our capacity to carry out digital monitoring. This will be done through external expertise. YWCA-YMCA of Sweden plan to cover 50% of this budget post.

Audit budget

The audit covers the cost of the Swedish annual audit of the programme. The audit of the projects within the programme is included in the partner budgets.

COST-EFFECTIVENESS

The activities and methods included in this intervention are results of active monitoring and evaluation of Youth Justice since 2015. We know what activities and staff that are needed in order to reach the intended objectives. It has been revealed that it is not cost efficient not to include proper means of transportation. In the previous phases, a big part of the staff's working time was spent trying to utilize public transportation. In the evaluations done in 2019 it was also recommended to introduce a system of paid volunteers in order to be able to keep trained volunteers throughout the project period to avoid having to re-train new volunteers and establish new contact with the target group. Furthermore, we know that the role of the National General Secretary is vital in order to accomplish successful advocacy. The relatively large costs linked to program development are necessary in order to achieve the added value of a thematic program, such as joint learning, improved partnerships and strengthened accountability.

SYSTEM FOR FINANCIAL CONTROL AND ANTI-CORRUPTION

YWCA-YMCA of Sweden has a proven professional capacity within financial management and control functions, including audit, anti-corruption and procurement. The SMC and YWCA-YMCA of Sweden have had a close dialogue during the last couple of years. The establishment of relevant and efficient systems, routines and increasing competence to manage these processes, including the ongoing implementation of recommendations from the organizational review, was confirmed by a Compliance Audit made by SMC in 2018. YWCA-YMCA Sweden takes active part in SMC training sessions and makes use of the offered methodological tools and templates. Procedures for Ensuring Proper Management and Use of Resources at YWCA-YMCA of Sweden.

There is a chain of signed agreements between all parties (SMC – YWCA-YMCA of Sweden – National offices of the partner organizations) involved, specifying budgets and the aims of use, before disbursements are made. The partners send an official requisition letter for a new disbursement and disbursements are made after having received an update or report on the use of the previous funds. The GS and project manager in partner

organizations cross sign the requisition letter. Internal control procedures exist in Sweden for disbursements, including requirement of multiple signatures by the GS and project manager.

Each partner sends an Annual financial report for the whole organization. Disbursements are made via the international banking system. Exceeded/unused budget posts more than 10% are thoroughly discussed and agreed upon with the SMC. Partners and YWCA-YMCA of Sweden ensure that auditors have the required qualifications and adhere to agreed standards. Written financial steering documents are in place (anti-corruption policy and action plan, controller handbook, project handbook at YWCA-YMCA of Sweden) and are updated annually and several being amended in accordance with the recommendation in organizational review performed by SMC.

Final and annual reporting is audited by Allegretto.

6. ANNEXES

1. Overall programme budget
2. LFA matrix
3. Risk assessment matrix
4. Bedömning av partnerorganisationerna
5. Organizational data of the cooperation partner organizations
6. Job descriptions and salary policies of the cooperation partner organizations
7. Anti-corruption policy of YWCA-YMCA of Sweden
8. Internationell strategi KFUM Sverige
9. List of Expected Results on Country Level

7. SIGNATURES

Authorised representatives from the Swedish organization are to sign this application. (The member organization is the party to the agreement in relation with SMC.)

Date:

Date:

Signatory

Signatory

Alexander Clemenson, NGS YWCA-YMCA of Sweden

Catalina Ortiz Mårback, YWCA-YMCA of Sweden