Africa We Want Project

Purpose of the Project
The YMCAs in Africa have been engaged in providing solutions to address the challenges that the continent is currently facing. The Movement initiated a 12 country project referred to as Africa We Want (1) that ran from 2015-2017. The Africa We Want (1) project addressed the challenge of low levels of information on the Agenda 2063, and the subsequent political apathy that was apparent. AWW (2) Project is an extension of the original project with the intention of fulfilling the following Outcomes:

Outcome 1: 15 African YMCAs are programmatically strengthened.

Indicators
1. On the basis of future youth scenarios, 15 African YMCAs have developed, adopted and began to implement national advocacy plans.
2. YMCAs in 15 countries implement the power space methodology (community and national level) which offers youth platforms for self-awareness, skills acquisition and realisation of political participation.
3. AAYMCA successfully implements a solid Monitoring and Knowledge Management framework with 15 National Movements.

Outcome 2: The advocacy capacity of the network of YMCAs in Africa is strengthened.

Indicators
1. The Youth Division of the African Union Commission has accepted the youth scenarios document and initiated a follow-up session with AAYMCA to discuss it (MoV: Invitation letter, programme of meeting, acknowledgement letter, mission report of a follow-up session of AAYMCA and AUC youth division on the scenarios).
2. AAYMCA registers commitment of at least 50% of the targeted governments to enhance youth participation in the domestication of Agenda 2063 (MoV: Reports of committees set up by governments on youth participation, invitations gained for attendance at high-level meetings, official government communication on youth participation, reports of government or government agencies in support of youth initiatives, youth-favourable press briefings and reports, social media posts).
3. In 10 countries YMCAs established collaborative multi-stakeholder platforms with strategic partners.

Report Date: January 1st 2018 – June 30th 2018

1. Activity details

1.1. The African Youth Scenarios
Between the 24th and the 28th March 2018, The AAYMCA conducted a 5-day Future search and Scenarios building conference in Kilifi, Kenya whose purpose was to facilitate the involvement of African youth in cementing their ownership of Agenda 2063. AAYMCA mobilized 43 youth from across the continent to engage in normative or norm-creating scenarios which will be a guide towards creating a common ground with which to approach the future. The Futures Search led to the development of 3 possible future Scenarios for African Youth. The project enjoyed the endorsement of the African Union, through specifically through the esteemed Youth Division of the AU, with observer presence of officials from the AU.
It is hoped that the Scenarios shall inevitably have the following outcomes:
1. inform new pro-youth policy including the next 10-year implementation plan of the African Union and the soon to be developed AU Five Year Plan of Action on Youth Empowerment (2019-2024)
2. imagine and facilitate new avenues for integration of youth in new, innovative and disruptive economic markets
3. Enable new ground-breaking solutions for community challenges – all led by youth.

1.2. Youth Leadership Participation in International Forums
The Secretariat of African Youth Council invited Zimbabwean YMCA youth member Rukudzo Kahlari to the 2nd Annual General Assembly Meeting of the African Youth Commission (AYCGA2018) held from 23-27 March 2018 in Victoria Falls, Republic of Zimbabwe. The meeting was hosted by Zimbabwe Youth Council (ZYC) in accordance with their constitutional mandates to report back to constituents and part of collective efforts as responsible young African leaders to bring together youth, youth organisations, networks, groups, initiatives as well as other stakeholders in youth development in African continent and diaspora to communicate, coordinate efforts and mobilise resources for harnessing the demographic dividend and contribute to the realisation of UN Agenda 2030 and Africa Agenda 2063 for the Africa we want. The GA was preceded by a Youth Forum of more than 100 delegates and partners from Africa and Diaspora to discuss the role of young people in contributing to the attainment of Pan African (AU) Vision: “Integrated, prosperous & peaceful Africa driven by its own citizens & representing a dynamic force in the global arena”.

1.3. The East African Youth Leadership Forum:
As a result of the African Youth Scenarios, AAYMCA was invited to participate in organizing the 2018 Youth Leadership (Youlead) Summit (2018). In addition to this, YouLead2018 was identified as an opportunity to disseminate the Scenarios to the East African Community membership and also to facilitate an East African Scenarios process. A 10 member organizing committee held a meeting at the All African Conference of Churches in Nairobi on the 26th of May 2018 which AAYMCA was the host. The one-day activity was facilitated through the fund for multi-stakeholder engagements after the Scenarios. Additionally, the AAYMCA through the Programmes Executive is part of the monthly planning committee meetings to ensure success of the event to be held on the 19th to 23rd of November 2018.

1.4. The World Wildlife Fund – AAYMCA partnership
Also as a result of the African Youth Scenarios project, the Africa Alliance of YMCAs signed a partnership agreement with the World Wildlife Fund to implement a comprehensive youth engagement strategy based on empowering young people to be in the driver’s seat of a prosperous Africa that is based on inclusive growth and sustainable development. Through this strategy, young people within the African YMCA network and beyond will participate in and take leadership over initiatives aimed at achieving the Aspirations of Agenda 2063. It is hoped that the implementation of this strategy will contribute to ensuring that African economic development happens in a manner that can balance the need for development without undermining the ecosystems that support livelihoods. The partnership is envisioned as an engagement of African youth between September and November 2018 on the basis of the Africa Ecological Futures thinking project.

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