

# STAY COVID-19 SAFE TANZANIA HUB OFFER

*(Part Of Restless Development Global Campaign - Youth Power To Help End The Coronavirus Pandemic)*

## SUPPORT YOUNG LEADERS TO RESPOND TO THE PANDEMIC



### ISSUE STATEMENT

As the coronavirus begins to impact Africa there is a significant risk that the pandemic will grow, yet prevention measures pose a number of social challenges associated with the lifestyles of many people in Africa including Tanzania. A large majority (85%) of the Tanzanian population is employed in the informal economy (Tanzania Labour Market profile 2018), it is estimated that 58% of youth between 15-35 years earn a basic living through informal sector activity as their main source of income (The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) 2007) while women workers dominate the sector, concentrated in activities such as food vending, tailoring, agricultural jobs, etc. Work in this sector is associated with low incomes and vulnerability (including lack of access to health insurance and sufficient savings). Economic impacts of current slowdown and a global recession to come will have a major effect on young people in a number of ways:

#### Out of school youth possible risks

- Contractual/Casual workers (hospitality, construction, restaurant) may lose their jobs
- Self-employed young people may increase their risk of exposure due to inability to take measures such as work from home and the need to continue business transactions

- Informal businesses lacking knowledge on proper safety and resources to prevent the spread of COVID-19 may expose others to risk through cross contamination
- Increased costs of doing business as a result of changing market (price increase in inputs, difficulty in transportation, decrease in buyers)
- Not being able to access services (lack of health insurance, savings, other types of insurance)
- Potential increase in GBV for women

## **In school youth possible risks**

- Lack of proper knowledge on COVID-19 or misinformation
- Possible dropouts due to disruption in family income or insufficient support (e.g. student loans not adjusted to cover possible extensions to academic terms)
- Possible engagement in child labour to cope with changing circumstances

This, combined with other challenges such as incorrect belief related to who can contract COVID-19, shared accommodation, overcrowded public transport, and gaps in health systems especially in the rural areas increases the risks of escalating the spread of the virus. However, the pandemic also opens up new opportunities such as growth of food processing and retailing, medical supply and services, personal and health care products, agribusiness, and e-commerce. Access to the correct information and knowledge on resilience (including coping mechanisms) is becoming increasingly important to support communities to mitigate the risks of COVID-19 and continue with their everyday activities safely during and after the pandemic.

**The overall goal:** ‘Young people especially women and People Living with Disability (PLWDs) and communities are resilient to shocks and challenges’

**Theory of Change:** If young people (especially women and PLWD) have the correct knowledge on COVID-19 prevention and recovery, as well as cross-cutting issues, are curating public information, leading community awareness campaigns and participating in networks as active citizens then communities will be more aware of the correct information and facilitate actions to respond to COVID-19 (prevention and recovery). Young people (including women, PLWD) will be able to exercise their agency and leadership, and influence positive change through role modelling the behaviour, preparing and organising their communities to stop the spread.

We will implement this through the Restless Model

**DELIVER** – train and mentor youth leaders to respond to COVID-19 in their communities by providing knowledge on prevention and recovery information including cross-cutting issues such as coping mechanisms, business development, health and food safety, environmental safety (waste disposal), gender and disability inclusion etc

**INFORM** –support young people to develop and disseminate evidence-based communications related to COVID-19 prevention and recovery

**INFLUENCE** – support young people to hold dialogues with local government, religious leaders, journalists, businesses and communities to act in preventing the spread of COVID-19 and putting in place post pandemic interventions

## **Women and Disability Participation**

In order to encourage the participation of women and PLWDs, we will put specific measures in place including:

- Consultation meetings with guardians and care providers to gain their support for the participation of women and PLWD in intervention activities as well as regular progress and safeguarding reports.
- Provision of childcare support for young mothers, interpretation services, and procuring accessible platforms (e.g. caption enabled voice conferencing software) to support intervention activities
- Provision of re-usable sanitary products working with CSOs developing these products
- Development of flexible working arrangements to accommodate other priorities including housework
- Formation of mentoring teams with female and disability role models
- Working with CSOs that specifically engage this group including SHIVYAWATA, TGNP, and women groups

**Target:** We will deliver this by supporting 180 (50% females, 50% males, 3% PLWD) youth mobilisers from 18 existing Youth Network, Youth Economic Groups, and Alumni Network.

**Geographic focus:** 18 regions of Tanzania

## ACTIVITIES

Our activities will focus on addressing the prevention of COVID-19 and recovery post the pandemic through 3 pillars.

### Pillar 1

#### **Youth Superheroes Stop the Spread (during the pandemic)**

*Young people changing their behaviour, role modelling the behaviour to stop the spread, to care for ourselves and for others. Young people influencing their peers in mass to change behaviour. Young people preparing and organising their communities to stop the spread.*

- We will train 180 youth mobilisers from 18 youth CSOs with the correct information on COVID-19 and its prevention including proper handwashing techniques, personal hygiene, preventing risky social behaviours such as idling around, and taking an active role in the fight against the pandemic. They will then disseminate this knowledge to their peers through their networks encouraging behaviour change through role modelling.
- We will also support the young people to hold controlled community events (safe distance, door to door) to demonstrate the correct knowledge on prevention such as hand washing techniques, hold dialogues with local government and religious leaders to get their buy-in and act as champions for youth-led actions, and fundraise for and distribute hygiene equipment to communities.

### Pillar 2

#### **Fighting misinformation – Prevention within the first 3-6 months of intervention**

*Never has fake news or misinformation been more harmful. Young people create attractive, exciting content to spread core messages for planning, prevention and response to the pandemic via digital channels that youth use. Young people policing fake news and misinformation, myth busting online and provoking engagement. Young people challenging stigma and championing mental and physical wellbeing.*

- The members of the 18 youth CSOs will form a Youth Citizen Journalism Platform (YCJP) supported by community journalists where they will conduct **phone and online surveys** to develop contextualized online and offline communications and messaging to address existing misinformation in their communities. This will then be disseminated using literate and non-literate methods on multiple channels including **home radio shows** – young people recording their messages through recorders following a script to be aired on community radios or online through social networks, working with local government and religious leaders to facilitate **Public Announcements, comics and animation** developed by young artists, and SMS campaigns. The YCJP will function as **youth-friendly information hub**.

## Pillar 3

### **Reclaiming The Power – Recovery within 12 months of intervention**

*Young people reclaiming power in the face of this pandemic and the powerlessness it makes us all feel. Youth-led civil society and movements acting on an unprecedented scale. Youth mobilising communities to protect themselves. Youth supporting governments and health workers through collective action. Through our individual acts and collective action, we reclaim power over this pandemic and we take the fight to it.*

Our research on the status of southern-based youth civil society, 'Towards a Thriving, Credible, Sustainable Youth Civil Society', found that Youth civil society is only 'surviving.' Youth civil is strategically not yet able to seize the opportunities offered by the Peak Youth era. There are key five key barriers, preventing it from achieving maximum development impact: 1) Limited Resourcing, 2) unique leadership & capacity gaps, 3) ineffective coordination, 4) perception of young people and 5) the broader context in society.

We will work with the targeted 18 youth CSOs to provide them with the support they need in order to address the challenges they face and promote resilience post the pandemic. We will do this by conducting **rapid assessment** to develop a baseline of active youth movements responding to COVID-19 and other community issues and survey their perception of their role and challenges in responding to COVID-19 to inform training and mentoring needs. We will then train and mentor targeted youth CSOs on key areas to support resilience post the pandemic such as:

- **Advocacy** (digital and non-digital) - to mobilise resources for the provision of prevention equipment to communities, encourage the provision of hygiene products in public spaces and businesses, and promote youth and vulnerable groups' rights including addressing GBV, child labour, discrimination etc.
- **Coping mechanisms** - such as savings, social security, and business innovation (knowledge in ideation, innovative technologies- electronic commerce, market survey) to strengthen their livelihood e.g. by responding to new markets (homemade masks, hygiene products), adapting cost savings mechanisms etc.,
- **Cross-cutting issues** - to promote community welfare - such as waste disposal, health and food safety, GBV, and inclusion of PLWD



**YOUNG PEOPLE ARE  
ALREADY TAKING  
ACTION TO STOP THE  
SPREAD!**

MTH aims to reduce the vulnerability of out of school adolescent girls to HIV and AIDS, unplanned pregnancy, gender-based violence. MTH is an award winning model that offers an integrated approach that addresses girls' sexual health and rights, livelihoods, and builds their confidence in making decisions that matter to their well-being.

*Young women from our Mabinti Tushike Hatamu (MTH) (Girls Let's Be Leaders) programme engaged in soap making as a business opportunity and to ensure supply of personal hygiene product in their community.*

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*Picture above: Karim Ngwallo, young leader from our Kijana Wajibika youth network, providing community sensitization to communities in Morogoro. Karim has also been appointed as a representative for people leaving with disability by his local government.*



## **Kijana Wajibika (Youth be Responsible)**

The overall goal - 'Increased government accountability and responsiveness through more effective, accountable and transparent institutions, increased public access to information, increased protection of fundamental freedoms, and more representative decision-making processes'. The programme trains young people between the ages 15-35 on their constitutional rights, key youth policies, democracy, and good leadership as well as skills to undertake research and advocacy on improvement in the implementation of youth related services and resource provision in Dar es salaam, Pwani, Morogoro, Kilimanjaro, Dodoma, and Iringa.

**Picture on the left:** Kijana Wajibika, Pwani youth network, demonstrating handwashing as part of their awareness creation in fighting covid-19.

## OUR INVESTMENT IN YOUNG PEOPLE.

When young people have a voice as active citizens, a sustainable livelihood, can realize their sexual and reproductive rights, and are supported to realize their leadership potential, amazing things happen. In the strategic year 2018/2019 we have worked with our Youth Volunteers, Changemakers, youth networks, partners and government officials to ensure that we create a world with a generation ready to respond to change.

Here is what we've achieved in the last year:



**1,027**

Young people were reached with sexual education.



**1,588**

Young people trained on Restless Development employability skills development curriculum



**25,576**

Young people accessed civic education



**6,673**

Young people (1,934 male, 2,382 female) accessed business or employment -schemes and training

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