Concept Note & Programme

A COLLABORATIVE REVIEW:
FACILITATING ACCESS TO SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE FOR ORPHANED AND VULNERABLE ADOLESCENT GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN

MONDAY, 15 APRIL 2019

ACACIA PREMIER HOTEL, KISUMU COUNTY
1.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The DREAMS Innovation Challenge was a two-year intervention aimed at preventing and addressing the rising number of new HIV infections among adolescent girls and young women. The goal was to help girls develop into Determined, Resilient, Empowered, AIDS-free, Mentored, and Safe women. The premise was that young women have the ability to reach their full potential when they have access to multiple interventions and when they are perceived as capable by society.

Over the past two years, KELIN’s DREAMS activities targeted adolescents and young women (AGYW) aged between 15 and 24 years, working with Community Based Organizations and widow support groups, within the 15 sub-counties in Homa Bay and Kisumu Counties.

The project was two-pronged seeking to address the: individual capacities of AGYW to ensure they are well informed of their autonomy and rights and can make decisions from a point of information and understanding; and structural and societal barriers that render AGYW more susceptible to HIV infection. In this two-pronged approach, we focused on the individual through awareness raising among AGYW on their sexual and reproductive health and rights and their land and property rights; facilitating access to justice for violations of human rights and access to sexual and reproductive health services.

On addressing the structural barriers KELIN used Community Based Organisations, Widow Support Groups, Elders, the Legislature, the Court Users Committee and Pro Bono Lawyers Network to address the multi-faceted layers of discrimination and oppression that renders AGYW more susceptible to violence and HIV infection. Through engagement with these structures, we were able to recreate safe spaces that no longer exist in many communities and encourage honest dialogue among communities of the problem faced by AGYW. By partnering with existing community structures, such as youth groups and activity clubs, the approach ensured that the adolescent girls are able to obtain and generate information on their sexual and reproductive health rights, freely and effectively express themselves, strengthen their life skills, as well as access legal aid and advice on their rights.

Finally, we utilised football and magnet theatre to challenge preconceived notions of spaces in which AGYW can sit in by working in partnership with Wazito Football Club, Impact Africa Limited and Lagnet to host a football tournament and creative displays of information sharing through theatre, aimed at communicating key messages on HIV and SGBV to the community. Sanitary towels were used as a conduit to deliver key messages on SRHR, SGBV and HIV which were developed collaboratively with AGYW and can be used as a cross-learning mechanism which shall encourage dialogue.

The project sought to reach 450 AGYW directly through capacity building, 15,000 indirectly through sanitary towels and 15,000 men and boys indirectly through football, radio campaigns, soccer clinics and tournaments, magnet theatre and peer learning; work collaboratively with 75 Community Based Organisations, 30 lawyers, 60 members of the Court Users Committee, 40 members of the Homa Bay and Kisumu County Governments, to address structural barriers and finally through the existing cultural structures project utilised by the Elders Committee and Widow Champions as a referral mechanism to facilitate access to justice.

KELIN is indebted to our partners who have been an asset in this project and who have played a critical role in ensuring its success. We are particularly indebted to the Project Steering Committees, the Elders Committee and the Pro Bono Lawyers who worked tirelessly in guiding this project.

2.0 JUSTIFICATION

AGYW are at a higher risk of HIV infection for a range of biological and harmful structural drivers such as forced and early marriages, tolerance of sexual and gender based violence, limited access to youth-friendly health services, practice of intergenerational sexual relationships, gender inequalities and polygamy vices. These practices expose them to all forms of sexual violations and increase their vulnerability to HIV infection.
In addition to SRHR, access to and enjoyment of land and property rights, especially by orphaned adolescent girls and widows, is a critical issue for their livelihoods and thus has affected their economic capability at the domestic and societal levels. In general, many widows and their children are often denied enjoyment of these rights. This has led to lack of psychosocial support, lack of proper home and identification since they have been disinherited and have no father figure or decent shelters, early marriages, school dropout, exposure to multiple sexual partners, lack of social protection and inaccessibility to affordable health services. The solution created demand for health-related services, provided a stable environment for the adolescent girls and their families in order for them to enjoy their right to health.

A multi-stakeholder approach is necessary for ensuring the rights of AGYW are secured as the needs identified are not isolated but rather cut across different areas of their lives. Stakeholders such as the leaders in the community, the women who raise and mentor the adolescents, the organisations in the identified communities, the court users who are the recipients of the reported violation, the lawyers and other relevant groups were the preferred drivers of the DREAMS activities as they are identifiable and relatable to the target group.

3.0 OBJECTIVES

The key objectives of this meeting include:

a. To engage in a collaborative review of the two-year DREAMS Innovation Challenge Project;
b. To disseminate findings of the end line survey, highlighting the impact, efficacy, effectiveness and the lessons learned; and
c. To appreciate key partners and stakeholders for the support and assistance provided over the two-year process.

4.0 OUTPUTS

The key outputs of the meeting are:

a. Dissemination of end line survey and lessons learned after the two-year project;
b. Collaboratively review and critically analyse the findings of the survey; and
c. Appreciate key partners and stakeholders that have been critical to the success of the project.

5.0 METHODOLOGY

The meeting which seeks to be participatory will benefit from presentations from experts, panel and plenary discussions.

6.0 PARTICIPANTS

A total of 36-60 participants are expected at this meeting including AGYW, elders, Court Users Committee members, CBOs and Widow Support Groups, Wazito Football Club, Impact Africa Limited, County officials, media and Lawyers.

6.0 VENUE AND DATE

The one-day close-out meeting convened by KELIN will be held in Kisumu County on Monday, 15 April 2019, at the Acacia Premier Hotel.
PROGRAMME

1.0 Objectives:

a. To engage in a collaborative review of the two-year DREAMS Innovation Challenge Project;
b. To disseminate findings of the End line survey, highlighting the impact, and the lessons learned; and
c. To appreciate key partners and stakeholders for the support and assistance provided over the two-year process.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Facilitator</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 – 8:30AM</td>
<td>Arrival and registration</td>
<td>Lisa Owino and Nelly Mwapoo (KELIN)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 – 9:00AM</td>
<td>Welcoming remarks, introduction, and objective setting</td>
<td>Nerima Were (KELIN)</td>
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<td>9:00 – 10:00AM</td>
<td>What was the DREAMS Project about? Skit by Lagnet theatre</td>
<td>Naomi Monda (KELIN)</td>
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<td>10:00-10:30AM</td>
<td>Health Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30AM –12:00PM</td>
<td>How did we do: Disseminating results of the end line survey from the project</td>
<td>Alex Muthui (KELIN)</td>
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<td>12:00 - 12:30PM</td>
<td>Plenary</td>
<td>Alex Muthui (KELIN)</td>
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<td>12:30PM - 1:30PM</td>
<td>Lunch Break</td>
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<td>1:30 – 1.45PM</td>
<td>Documenting our journey: A graphic presentation of the DREAMS Experience</td>
<td>Kinyanjui Mungai (Videographer)</td>
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<td>1:45 – 2.15PM</td>
<td>Getting the right message across: Creative messaging to respond to the information needs of the adolescent girls and young women through the SMS platform and message cards</td>
<td>Kentice Tikolo (Impact Africa)</td>
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<td>2:15-3:00PM</td>
<td>Experience sharing: Successes and challenges faced in implementing the Project</td>
<td>Plenary Discussion Jessica Oluoch (KELIN)</td>
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<td>3:00 – 3:30PM</td>
<td>Way forward: What next for KELIN and the DREAMS Project</td>
<td>Nerima Were (KELIN)</td>
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<td>3.30PM – 4.20PM</td>
<td>Closing CeremonyRemarks by the Executive Director, KELIN (10 minutes)</td>
<td>Allan Maleche (KELIN)</td>
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<td>4.20PM – 4.40PM</td>
<td>Press conference (Chief Guest, KELIN ED, DREAMS Champion representative, CBO and Elder representatives)</td>
<td>Impact Africa and Karambu</td>
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DEPARTURE
Notes
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