

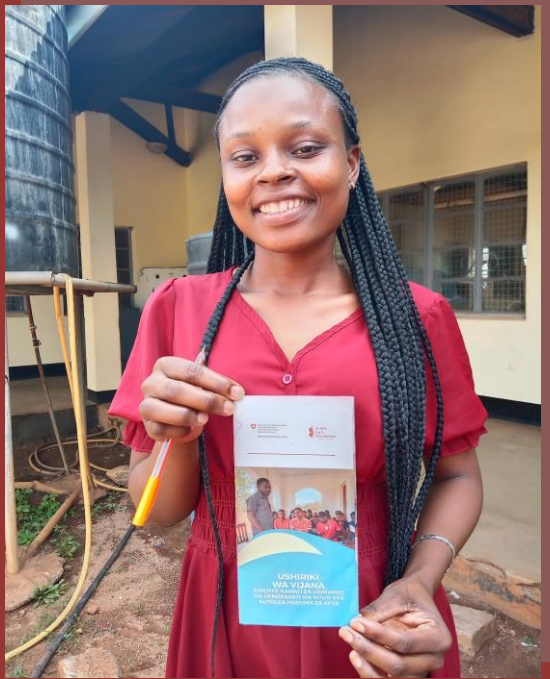


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“Kijana Wajibika Project”



DOCUMENTED PROCESS, LESSONS AND RESULTS

November 2022 - April 2023



Funded by: The Swiss Confederation, represented by the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, acting through Embassy of Switzerland in Tanzania - Credit proposal no. 7F-08994.03.27 - Contract n° 81074823



DOCUMENTED PROCESS, LESSONS AND RESULTS

KIJANA WAJIBIKA PROJECT

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This project documentation work has been made possible by the financial assistance from **The Swiss Confederation, represented by the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, acting through Embassy of Switzerland in Tanzania.** The contents of this document are the responsibility of **Action Girls Foundation.**

Foreword



Action Girls Foundation (AGF) is a non-profit organization that works to promote adolescents' awareness on sexual and reproductive health and rights. The organization is registered under the Non-Governmental Act of 2002, with registration number 00NGO/R/0214. AGF's main focus is on health concerns related to youth, adolescent girls, and young women (AGYW).

Since November 2022, AGF has been implementing the KIJANA WAJIBIKA Project that focused mainly on promoting learning and advocacy for youth inclusion in the Health Facility Governing Committees (HFGCs).

In implementing the project, AGF gained positive collaboration with government structures at Villages, Wards, District Council, and Ministerial levels. Their cooperation is highly appreciated. On the other hand, youth have been engaged as the primary beneficiaries of the project. AGF focuses on continuing to work closely with the mentioned entities in the future to ensure that the project's learning and results are sustained and scaled up to a wider population. On behalf of the members of the board and management of AGF, I extend heartfelt thanks to The Swiss Confederation, represented by the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, acting through the Embassy of Switzerland in Tanzania for their financial assistance for the implementation of this project. I call upon interested development partners to support this initiative and learn how we bring together communities, government, and youth organizations at the local level, using innovative approaches to building the capacity of youth to take part in health decision-making bodies. We hope these pages will inspire you to join us in our mission.

1.0 Background

Action Girls Foundation (AGF) is a non-profit organization that works to promote adolescents' awareness on sexual and reproductive health and rights. The organization is registered under the Non-Governmental Act of 2002, with registration number 00NGO/R/0214. AGF's main focus is on health concerns related to youth and adolescent girls and young women (AGYW).

1.1 About the Project



Kijana Wajibika Project was designed to promote learning and advocacy for youth inclusion in the Health Facility Governing Committees (HFGCs) through: capacity building for youth; advocacy and awareness raising at community level and monitoring and evaluation of project interventions. In line with these interventions, the project took into account mainly gender segregation and age category (youth). The project engaged also the sector ministries including the President's Office Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG), Ministry of Health (MoH), Prime Minister's Office Policy, Parliamentary Affairs, Labour, Youth, Employment, and Persons with Disabilities (PMO-LYEPD), Youth-led organizations, the Regional Health Management Team (RHMT) and Mpwapwa District Council.

1.2 KIJANA WAJIBIKA Project summary

1.2.1 Overall objective:

“Promote learning and advocacy for youth inclusion in the Health Facility Governing Committees (HFGCs).”

Objective 1:	Indicators
To carry out a baseline assessment of the youth engagement in Health Facility Governing Committees (HFGCs) and disseminate to the regional authority.	Shared information on Youth engagement in HFGCs to respective District and Regional authorities
Objective 2:	Indicators
To enhance participation of youth in the Health Facility Governing Committees (HFGCs)	Number of Youth skilled and conversant with Health legal directives and HFGCs functioning.
Objective 3:	Indicators
To disseminate the progress and advocate the inclusion of youth in the Health Facility Governing Committees (HFGCs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Number of Advocacy consultative meetings and/or sessions held• Number (by gender) of Youth engaged in HFGCs operations
Objective 4:	Indicators
To monitor and report on the outcome	Quarterly progress reports

1.2.2 Financier and volumes of support

The KIJANA WAJIBIKA Project Credit proposal no. 7F-08994.03.27 (Contract n° 81074823), received financial support from The Swiss Confederation, represented by the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, acting through Embassy of Switzerland in Tanzania. Total funding for the Project amounted to 35,175,000 Million Tanzanian Shillings.

1.2.3 Duration

The KIJANA WAJIBIKA Project was implemented in the period extending 6 months from November 2022 - April 2023.

1.2.4 Project coverage

The project was implemented in Chunyu Ward of Mpwapwa District Council, the interventions were piloted at Chunyu dispensary.

1.2.5 Beneficiaries

Direct beneficiaries included youth (males and females) whereas, the community, health care providers of Chunyu dispensary, and Government institutions including PO-RALG, MoH, Regional and Council Authorities and other Public Health Facilities were grouped under indirect beneficiaries.

2.0 Project implementation approach/process



Strategically Kijana Wajibika Project engaged itself in capacity building intervention which included training, advocacy to influence active engagement of youth in HFGCs for policy dialogue, and communication, information sharing including development of IEC material, and documentation of project process and results. Thus, Kijana Wajibika Project was interactive and brought in diverse of stakeholders in its interventions.

2.1 Project implementation and level of achievements

Indicators (expected changes)	Level of Achievements
Shared information on youth engagement in HFGCs to respective district and regional authorities.	The Project managed to conduct baseline assessment in three wards and shared the findings at District council (Council Administration, CMT and CHMT members) and Regional levels.
Number of youth skilled and conversant with health legal directives and HFGCs functioning.	10 Youth (5 females, male 5) from Chunyu ward were identified by respective village leaders one from each hamlets of Chunyu village, and trained on the structure, roles and functions of HFGCs as well as application procedures for HFGC membership.
Number of advocacy meetings and/or consultative sessions held.	A total of three (3) advocacy meetings were held at council and village levels. While, four (4) consultative sessions conducted at both Regional and Ministry (PO-RALG, MoH, and PMO-LYEPD). These sessions were useful for sharing project objectives, interventions and approaches for awareness raising and buy-in.
Number of youth (by gender) engaged in HFGCs operations.	Eight (8) out of ten (10) trained youth applied for the HFGC membership.

3.0 Results observed by Kijana Wajibika Project

3.1 Youth inclusion in the HFGCs

As a result of awareness raising and capacity building, Kijana Wajibika Project observed 80% of its trainees applying for membership in the HFGC where in March 2023 two of them (male and female) were elected as official members of the HFGC in Chunyu dispensary. Performance of new youth members will be assessed, experience collected during the periodic M&E mission, and best practices for learning developed and shared.

3.2 Political buy – in

Kijana Wajibika Project attracted appreciable collaboration from Council, Regional and Sector Ministries during its life. The buy – in is key in sustaining initiatives that had been piloted by AGF. Some of evidences included:

- Commitments by the council and the facility in charge to periodically invite and utilize the trained youth in various community health related activities.
- Directive from the District Commissioner for the CHMT to utilize the baseline findings to improve the health system governance by including youth in the HFGCs.
- Instructions from the District Commissioner to the DMO to issue a letter instructing all health facility in-charges to facilitate inclusion of youth in the new committees to be formed.
- Raised concerns by village leaders requesting information sheet regarding the project to be used as a guide for raising awareness to the community. As part of response to this, the project team developed and distributed to village and hamlet leaders a Swahili brochure that clarify the importance of youth inclusion in the HFGCs.

4.0 Challenges and lessons learnt in the project interventions

4.1 Challenges encountered

- **Limited financial resources (AGF)**

It became evident that, Kijana Wajibika Project was innovatively designed and its benefits could reach wider communities if adequate resources were available. AGF is a growing organization and hence it faces shortage of financial resources to scale up this initiative.

- **Inadequate support to HFGCs by the Council**

Despite their establishment, HFGCs indicated that the Council had no specific interventions in support the facilities such as orientation and capacity building. The CHMT has been constrained by lack of adequate financial resources to ensure their active participation in the project implementation through cost sharing to capacitate the HFGCs.

- **Community disbelief on youth leadership abilities**

The project noted elements of disbelieves and worries by communities (especially elders) to include youth in these crucial health governing and decision making bodies.

4.2 Lessons learnt

- There exist supportive environment (guidelines and policies) for youth inclusion in decision making bodies. The same can be reviewed to have specific clauses for youth and ensure their enforcement.
- Youth Inclusion in the HFGCs is a new concept that requires awareness raising among Health Management Teams (RHMTs and CHMTs) for its implementation and sustainability.

- Youth are willing and ready to take part in HFGC, given that they are well informed and capacitated to undertake the responsibilities. Their inclusion in health related governing and decision making provides room for this sidelined group to address and follow up their specific health concerns.
- Adoption of cost effective mechanism (orientation, coaching, backstopping) in building capacity of the HFGCs shall ensure the committees are active and functioning effectively.
- Transparency, Advocacy and Awareness raising to key actors (community, local authorities, regional and ministries) has laid a foundation for project results.

5.0 Sustenance of the project results

The design and implementation approach of Kijana Wajibika Project showed some indications of sustenance in the Project area and spillovers to other areas. This includes readiness shown by the secondary beneficiaries i.e. the community, council, and health care providers to participate and provide necessary support needed in favor of project achieved results.

6.0 Recommendations and Conclusion

6.1 Recommendations

- The work that has been done by AGF in Chunya village might stimulate new interventions in the area. These may include; persuading the Council to utilize the trained group of youth for supporting other community health related interventions such as sensitizing the community to enroll in the iCHF.
- Different stakeholders who participated in the project presented their appreciations on project design, implementation approach, innovativeness and salient results achieved in this learning project. AGF is advised to explore more options for scaling up its operations to other wards and especially in peripheral areas.

6.2 Conclusion

AGF in collaboration with other stakeholders under Kijana Wajibika Project has stimulated changes in the engagement, composition and functioning of the HFGC in the Project area during its implementation period. Despite these appreciated initiatives in pushing the youth inclusion agenda in the HFGCs, time and financial resources constrained AGF to amplify the achievements. In line to these observations, there is a need for AGF to seek additional support for scaling up and/or replication of Kijana Wajibika Project.