Call for Proposals – YALA Project Cohort 1

Introduction

While significant progress has been made towards creating more youth-friendly access to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) information and services in East and Southern Africa, it is widely acknowledged that more needs to be done to ensure that young people can make informed decisions about their sexual and reproductive health.

Without this vital access and support, young people are facing a myriad of SRHR challenges including unplanned pregnancy, unsafe abortion, girls dropping out of school, early / forced marriages, female genital mutilation (FGM), sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), and HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs). Many countries in East and Southern Africa in particular have some of the highest rates of unplanned pregnancy, HIV, FGM and SGBV among young people worldwide.

This three-year project, led by Theatre for a Change (TfaC) in Malawi, will aim to increase access to adolescent and youth-friendly SRHR information and services in 10 countries across East and Southern Africa by working with partner NGOs/CBOs and youth leaders to implement a range of exciting initiatives using the TfaC methodology for SRHR advocacy and social / behavioural change.

About the Opportunity

We are looking to develop new training and implementing partnerships with SRHR organisations in 10 countries across East and Southern Africa who are interested in learning and using the TfaC approach for SRHR advocacy and social change in their work.

- The first application window (July 2024) will be for cohort 1 partners in Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.
- The second application window (January 2025) will be for cohort 2 partners in Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Partners will be selected from an open application process in all 10 countries. TfaC will select up to four partners per country.

Once selected, each partner will be asked to nominate up to 20 young leaders affiliated with their organisation to come to Malawi and receive two weeks of intensive methodology training from the TfaC team at TfaC's new training facility called YALA – the Young African

Leaders Academy. TfaC will select up to four young leaders from the nominees from each NGO / CBO partner to receive this training in Malawi.

Once the young leaders have completed this training, they will return to their home organisations / networks and implement this training under the supervision of the partners, and with TfaC's remote support.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for this opportunity, partners must meet all of the following criteria:

1. Must be a registered NGO / CBO in one of the following countries*:
    i. Ethiopia
    ii. Kenya
    iii. South Sudan
    iv. Tanzania
    v. Uganda

*Please note that the application window for Cohort 2 countries (Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe) will open in January 2025.

2. Must have a strong organisational focus on SRHR, particularly among adolescents and youth
3. Must have a clear vision for how they will use TfaC's training / methodology to support their ongoing SRHR advocacy work
4. Must have SRHR advocacy campaigns / activities that are already in progress and/or the intention to launch SRHR advocacy campaigns / activities in the next few years
5. Must have an established and active youth volunteer network from which the youth leaders will come
6. Must have the ability to communicate in English both verbal and written
7. Must have the ability to commit to the full project implementation period (early 2025 – early 2027)

Who Should Apply

This is primarily a training/implementation partnership project, designed to support NGOs / CBOs who are already engaged in SRHR advocacy work at the community level. Roughly speaking, TfaC will be responsible for the 'training' component, and partners will be responsible for the 'implementing' component of the partnership.

The project will fund all costs associated with training the young leaders from partner organisations – this includes expenses like flights to Malawi, room and board, training materials, local transport etc. The project will also provide monthly stipends for the young leaders during the two years that they will be implementing activities in their communities using TfaC's methodology.

The project has limited capacity to fund in-country activities post-training, so it is important that partners already have advocacy activities in progress, and / or have the interest and ability to fundraise for these activities, with or without TfaC's support. We anticipate the training of Cohort 1 young leaders happening in Malawi in March 2025 with post-training implementation of activities beginning in April 2025 for this first cohort of partners.

TfaC estimates that partners will need anywhere from $2,500-$10,000 (USD) per year to successfully implement activities using the TfaC methodology, depending on their location. In limited circumstances, TfaC may be able to support partners with some of these costs, so we encourage all organisations to apply who meet the eligibility criteria and have a strong interest in working with TfaC on this project, regardless of their current financial situation.

How to Apply

Please submit your application by clicking on the link below:

Application Form – YALA Project Cohort 1

Application deadline: Monday 22nd July 2024

If you have any questions about this opportunity that you would like to discuss with a TfaC member of staff, please email info@tfacafrica.com with subject heading **TfaC Partner Application Inquiry** and we will do our best to reply as soon as possible.

We commit to acknowledging receipt of all applications; however, we will only take forward conversations with shortlisted applicants, and unfortunately do not have the capacity to give feedback to individual applicants on the quality of their applications. Thank you for your understanding and for your interest in working with us!