

RESULTS SUMMARY

Access to SRHR and MHPSS for young care leavers through partnership

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PROJECT	Title:	Leave No Youth Behind (LNYB) – Empowering youth leaving care to claim their rights in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somaliland
	Partner:	SOS Children's Villages in Kenya
	Country:	Kenya - Mombasa
	Period:	2022-2025

CHANGE

The Leave No Youth Behind (LNYB) project has played a key role in supporting a youth-led initiative facilitating Young Care Leavers' (YCL) access to youth-friendly, non-discriminatory Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) information and services, and establishing a community platform for advocating YCL minority rights. More than 1300 YCL and a total of more than 14.000 youth reached.

CONTEXT

In Kenya access to SRHR and MHPSS services remains a challenge not least for young people and especially for women who count for nearly three times the number of newly infected compared to men. Therefore the collaboration with Kenyan Liverpool Voluntary Counselling and Testing (LVCT) Health concept has been highly relevant and successful in improving access to services through innovative services and organisation of peer counsellors.


CONTRIBUTION

The partnership between SOS Kenya and LVCT Health has facilitated that YCL have been recognised as a particularly vulnerable group and the project has facilitated the capacity development, mentorship and coaching of YCL volunteers equipping them with knowledge, necessary skills and tools to provide peer counselling. In addition the digital One2one health platform has improved access to knowledge and services as well as generation of valuable data.

IMAGES



Abdalla Nyaye, YCL leader, chairing youth engagement event



Youth health sensitization meeting

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ACTIVITIES

24 Young Care Leavers have been trained as SRHR and MHPSS champions linked to the Department of Health and specific health facilities facilitating peer-counselling, access to services and referrals through a digital platform called One2One. This has been implemented in six sub-counties of Mombasa and started up in Uasin Gishu county towards the end of 2023. In collaboration with LVCT Health, the LNYB programme implemented a digital SRHR and MHPSS Model, known as the One2one platform, providing essential services to young care leavers, providing YCL with Tele-counselling and SMS services.

LESSONS

When mobilized and engaged in a structured unit, YCL realize their specific minority rights, build self-confidence, adopt program ownership and contribute effectively to programme planning and implementation. A defined YCL programme objective and an intentional allocation of resources are prerequisites to facilitate effective YCL community initiatives. Linking up with government and community public health structures and partnering with NGOs like LVCT Health play a significant role in anchoring specific LNYB minority needs and rights with primary and secondary duty bearers.

EVIDENCE

The data generated in the programme show that nearly 50% more women than men accessed the service from the young care leavers. most questions related to SRHR (38%), MHPSS (35%), HIV (8%), GBV (3%) and the remaining asked about other issues. The data from SMS service was similar with a few interesting observations, like more inquiries on GBV (11%) maybe showing that it may be easier to write an SMS than to talk to someone about it. The LNYB-facilitated project has successfully raised public health authorities' attention to including specific YCL minority needs, rights and perspectives in government legislation and programmes. As a consequence of the project, LVCT Health has recognized YCL as active and equal stakeholders and integrated YCL in the LVCT Health Safeguarding Policy. Going forward, LVCT Health will be including YCL as a sub-population of their defined target group. A thorough and participatory process has enabled scale up in Uasin Gishu County.

DOMAINS

<i>Development strategy priorities:</i>	Democracy and human rights
<i>Changes in the lives of people facing poverty, marginalisation or vulnerability</i>	-
<i>Changes in laws, policies and practices that affect people's rights</i>	x
<i>Changes in the capacity of organisations and communities to support rights</i>	x
<i>Changes in partnerships and collaborations that support people's rights</i>	-
<i>Changes in participation of groups facing poverty, marginalisation or vulnerability</i>	x