

**STEPS REGIONAL NETWORK
COVID-19 RESPONSE
MAY 2020**

Situation in the Network Region

The COVID-19 pandemic is rapidly turning into a human rights crisis, which is aggravating the vulnerability of the least protected in society. This impact comes from both the pandemic and the measures necessary to combat it, which is threatening not only the livelihood of young people but also the protection of their hard earned rights.

Livelihood and Food Security

“We work with youth in rural communities. Before the pandemic the community was battling with a drought, food shortages and economic downturns. It’s worse now, the food aid is simply not enough, it is not reaching everyone and there is no work for the rural youth” – My Age, Zimbabwe

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, millions of people in the SADC region were already food insecure as a result of climatic shocks, such as drought, flooding, structural macro-economic and social factors. The COVID-19 outbreak and its debilitating impacts on livelihoods is exacerbating the situation, eroding communities’ coping capacities and deepening food and nutrition insecurity of vulnerable households and individuals.

While the lockdowns and restrictive measures are necessary to stop virus transmission and prepare health services to be able to save lives, they are making visible pre-existing levels of inequality and poverty. The WHO and Ministries of Health are recommending that people stay at home and self-quarantine, practice physical distancing and washing hands regularly. This is not a reality for many young people and their families without access to running clean water and sanitation and for whom physical distancing is a luxury.

Extended lockdowns and other restrictions threaten to secure the livelihood of vulnerable young people and their families, who depend on making a living from day to day. Lack of income and shortage of food supplies, especially in places where the informal sector or subsistence agriculture are the only means of survival and where the state hasn’t got the capacity to replace lost earnings or meet basic needs, is causing increased poverty, hunger and malnutrition and increased distress.

There is little doubt that economic consequences of the COVID-19 crisis is further aggravating the high unemployment rate of young people. Although governments around the region have promised some social protection steps including feeding programs and support grants to shield vulnerable households from income and food shortages, several countries, including Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe are struggling to fund social assistance programmes. In South Africa, riots and protests broke out in townships over promised government food-parcels and other relief measures.

In Malawi, a high court granted a temporary injunction against the government’s plan for a 21-day coronavirus lockdown in response to a challenge by the Malawi Human Rights Defenders Coalition (HRDC), which argued that more consultation was needed to prevent harm to the poorest and most vulnerable of society.

Migration

“COVID -19 has disrupted the refugee youth’s livelihoods. Most of them work odd jobs and live from hand to mouth. Now they have lost their source of income as they are unable to get to work due to lockdown restrictions” – Rendezvous Youth, Uganda

Young people throughout the Southern African region make up the majority of around 18 million refugees in Africa. Migration within Southern Africa has increased dramatically over the past two decades with a considerable influx of migrants from poorer countries in the region like Lesotho, Zimbabwe and Malawi to richer countries including Botswana, Namibia and South Africa.

Due to the COVID -19 crisis, opportunities for migration have reduced drastically because of border closure, affecting the livelihood of migrants’ families, who rely on the remittances. Health risks and poverty pose a serious

threat to migrant workers forced to return home and to those who have remained, often illegally. Illegal migrants try to remain invisible, have low knowledge of their health rights and are not eligible for economic relief provided by the state. Xenophobia is likely to spread even more due to the COVID-19 crisis. Many incidents have been reported, where migrants are accused of having brought the virus, burdening healthcare systems and competing for scarce employment opportunities. In South Africa, foreign nationals, who own small Spaza shops in townships were targeted, intimidated and assaulted by police who also seized their goods.

Health

“It’s been hectic since the COVID-19 lock down regulations in Botswana restricted our movements. This weighs more on young people living with HIV than any other group. They cannot access treatment refills due to travel restrictions. Those who had travelled before lockdown to areas outside of their treatment centers are denied refills due to treatment center specific rules. The restrictions do not allow doctor consultations or blood chemistry for HIV patients. Those on treatment need food and most of them have lost jobs, it’s a challenge as food aid is not reaching everyone who needs it.” – CEYOH, Botswana

The COVID-19 crisis is revealing how under-resourced public health systems are, including testing capacities and an acute shortage of essential supplies, like personal protective equipment (PPE), diagnostics and medical equipment. While responding to COVID-19, other healthcare services have been affected, reducing outpatient numbers and Sexual and Reproductive Health services, including access to contraceptives, antiretroviral drugs and TB treatment.

Lockdown measures have led to a dramatic increase in gender based violence. Women and girls are finding themselves trapped in the home with a perpetrator with limited contact with the outside world, making it difficult for them to reach out for help. In South Africa, on day seven of the lockdown, the police announced that 2,320 cases of domestic violence had been reported.

The COVID-19 crisis also has a profound effect on people’s mental health, but more so for young people. Increased social isolation, loneliness, health anxiety, stress, job loss, financial insecurity and interruption of their education are harming young people’s mental health, livelihood and overall wellbeing. During lockdown and movement restrictions young people’s social spaces and interactions have essentially shrunk to their homes. Social networks are not only important for young people they are platforms of learning, sharing and a window into the wider world, unfortunately the access to these platforms is limited due to lack of access to affordable data. In addition a great majority don’t have access to a working smartphone or data for using social media.

Myths and False News

“People with albinism are being called ‘corona’ and blamed for the outbreak of this ‘foreign’ virus.”
– Albinism Foundation, Lusaka Zambia

This crisis is highlighting the danger of false news and misinformation and reinforces the need for reliable, accurate information.

Fake news and misinformation about COVID-19 have been spreading fast. In the absence of effective detection, it’s easy to make broad assumptions about who may carry the COVID-19 virus, which can fuel stigma and discrimination. It has been reported, by some of our members that families, who are adhering to the stay at home regulations, are labelled and stigmatised as carriers of the virus in their communities. People are starting to feel anxious of being tested because of possible stigma in their communities and prefer to keep to themselves when they develop symptoms.

False news have resulted in misinformed behaviours such as drinking alcohol and exposure to sunlight to kill the virus and youth reported that they are afraid to get tested because of misinformation falsely alleging that testing kits were infected with Covid-19.

Education

“Urban schools are continuing with online learning. We work in Masvingo rural where the internet network coverage is very poor. Learners do not have smart devices and data costs are beyond the reach of these rural communities. Rural youth are missing out on education, the situation is much worse for the rural youth living with disability. The government will not open schools as they do not have the resources to ensure learner safety”
– My Age Zimbabwe.

Widespread closure of schools, colleges and universities is interrupting the education of children and young people. This is causing major and unequal interruption in students’ learning. While some educational institutions, especially private schools have resorted to the use of online facilities, others, especially in poor and rural communities, do not have access to these facilities. Going online is a great challenge for many young people, who lack access to the internet and face high data costs and frequent power interruptions. This situation is likely to increase inequality and exclusion. Young people with disability and special educational needs are seriously affected by the closure of educational institutions

Ecological rights

“COVID-19 has shown us that while our focus is on environment advocacy, we need to now include the social element. Conversations around access to water need to start now. COVID-19 has also exposes a lot of human-wildlife conflict” – Kruger to Canyons, South Africa

The environment has a tremendous influence on human life and the well-being of social communities. But young people’s environmental rights are threatened by climate change, global warming, air pollution, urban sprawl, waste disposal, ozone layer depletion, water pollution, and many more. When the environment becomes degraded, it affects vulnerable young people and their communities the most. The COVID-19 crisis is highlighting the importance of access to a clean environment and natural resources, that enable survival, including land, shelter, food, water and air in order to protect themselves and their livelihood.



Steps Regional Network Responses

“We need to think critically and beyond the current crises. We are growing young leaders not for the future but for now.” – STEPS Training Regional Coordinator

Interviews with STEPS regional network partners from South Africa, Malawi, Lesotho, Botswana, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe via Zoom, Skype and WhatsApp meetings provided insight how regional network members are adapting their programs to the new reality during COVID-19 crisis, using their resources, skills and knowledge to create awareness around preventative measures.

I. BOTSWANA, CEYOHU - Interview with Kennedy, Project Coordinator

CEYOHU works with the youth in using film as a tool for awareness and advocacy around sexual reproductive health and adherence to HIV treatment.



Travel restrictions at the beginning of national lockdown meant HIV patients could not access treatment refills. Those who had travelled before lockdown to areas outside of their treatment centers were being denied refills. Doctor consultations and blood chemistry for HIV patients was prohibited. It seems HIV and other chronic illness are being sidelined as the focus is all on COVID-19.

As an advocacy organization our aim is to urgently advocate for access to treatment and doctor consultation for vulnerable people living with HIV during national lockdown. We have conducted stakeholder zoom meetings with the ARV manager from Ministry of Health, USAID, PEPFAR, youth facilitators, partners in HIV interventions and people living with HIV. Since then the Ministry of Health has directed all ARV site specific clinic rules to change, mandating all clinics to issue ARV treatment regardless of a client's location. Individuals in the treatment program are now allowed to visit any nearest clinic during national lockdown for treatment.

CEYOHU received a government grant to engage and keep our youth productive during this lockdown. Young people have started reaching out to the community to follow up and check on our members' issues regarding supply and access to SRHR services during COVID-19. They are using a data collection tool, to map homes of those in need of support or supplies and link them with clinics and support services. They will document challenges and advice health authorities on findings and intervention recommendations.

Many youths have lost employment, are frustrated and at high risk of mental health issues. There is a worrying lack of food relief.

CEYOHU's youth members will be involved in food and medication distribution. The program gives the youth an important responsibility while earning a livelihood through stipends.

Way Forward

CEYOHU plans to adapt to the new modes of working online and the use of communication technology tools to enhance their advocacy work. Tools like Zoom, WhatsApp, cellphone video clips will be very important. The youth members need to be capacitated with skills to adapt to the new modes of work. CEYOHU intends to expand their hotline mental health support.

CEYOHU plans to continue with film screenings as soon as COVID-19 restrictions are lifted, to address the challenges young people are facing which are increasingly getting worse. This will enable young people to respond to solving community challenges and identify opportunities to enhance sexual reproductive health rights.

Facilitated film screenings are key to their advocacy work and they have integrated into all programs. *“They allow us to do more than just talk, they allow us to engage and debate ideas and we find solutions and act as a collective community. Film is very popular with our target group the youth, it has worked well for our schools’ program.”* – CEYOHO

CEYOHO has started to produce a series of short films and will work together with STEPS on a facilitation guide. This activity could be conducted as webinar via Zoom.

2. MALAWI, SASO - Paul and Linly, Program Coordinators

Partner organizations in Malawi are currently not in lockdown, however the government is encouraging preventive measures including hygiene and social distancing in response to COVID-19. There is limited access to information about the crisis, especially in rural communities.



“We need our youth facilitators to mobilize their peers who have a high risk of contracting and spreading the virus. They have high rates of social interactions as they seek a living. We notice they are making little effort to prevent the virus so we are targeting them with the right information. Our youth facilitators are working with community health workers to provide the correct information and regulations in our film screenings.” – SASO

SASO has hosted a stakeholder meeting attended by youth facilitators, district leadership and Ministry of Health to plan facilitated film screening awareness program in response to COVID-19. Community health workers have been invited to provide information on COVID-19 during film screenings in the Salima district. These rural communities have little access to information,

as people have no smart phones or internet access and rely on the facilitated screening programs for information. SASO have weekly update meetings on youth activities on the ground. They are offering counselling services via phone calls or direct contact with precautions as the impact of COVID-19 affects mental health and well-being of the community particularly vulnerable groups like the youth and community members on chronic medication.

SMOT - Chiyembekezo Chabvu, Director

SMOT conducted a stakeholder meeting in the Dowa district including village heads, community health workers, youth, church leaders and community members to discuss how to respond to the COVID-19 crisis.



“This was the first time in Dowa to have such type of meeting because government has not yet come out in the open to address stakeholders from rural communities on a strategy to combat COVID-19. The meeting was an eye opener, because they have been hearing about COVID-19 but no platform had been created by government to engage, plan and implement outreach programs with marginalized rural communities who have no access to information.” – SMOT

SMOT has developed a work plan to integrate facilitated film screenings into community health workers interventions to provide correct COVID-19 information to the Dowa community. This facilitated film screening program has already started.

“Our youth facilitators together with health workers are encouraging the use of hand washing points made from locally available accessible resources. We continue to conduct facilitated film screenings and adhere to the regulations, which demand social distancing and limited number of people in gatherings.” – SMOT

Way Forward

“Youth are the majority- the Salima population is 75% youth. They are able to think outside the box and can influence the development of the nation by triggering information down to their fellow youth. Their access to information enables participation in decision making and action that can help mitigate the impact COVID-19 and many other social issues” – SASO



A hand washing point - Dowa/Malawi

Border closures have led to loss in livelihood and income from cross-border trading and migrant remittances from neighboring countries like South Africa. The Government policy of contact tracing all those who have returned from South Africa is causing relatives not to disclose this information due to fear of being stigmatized by the community. Access to sexual reproductive health services has worsened and the cost of these services makes them unaffordable. Already there is a high rate of teenage pregnancies. Food insecurity is a serious problem and the cost of living is rising beyond the means of many.

“The role of youth facilitators is now more important during COVID-19 and beyond. They are enthusiastic and creative they are able to organize themselves and set networks of information via social media. They are adaptive we want to build resilience for them to be proactive and seek solutions to their problems.” – SASO

The need for accurate information to curb the spread COVID-19 will continue as well as building the resilience of young people to cope with the long-term impact of this crisis. SMOT and SASO plan to integrate facilitated film screenings in the work plans of local government district structures to maximise their reach. Facilitated film screenings will continue in Salima and Dowa districts.

There is a need to train more youth facilitators in both districts to spearhead the response to the COVID-19 crisis as change agents.

Cultural barriers sometimes make it difficult for the youth to speak with the adults on issues of governance and participation in decision making process. It is a community belief that governance is reserved for the adults. However, there are some who are responsive and are keen to support the youth in taking leadership roles and responsibilities as community enablers. In other issues, such as access to sexual reproductive health services, adults are receptive of the youth's views and leadership. Most SHR services are spearheaded by the youth. In this case the adults understand the importance of having youth participate in decision making and implementation.

“We want to have the youth participate more in decision making processes and their issues considered for development, they are the future leaders. We expect the facilitated film screening program to continue addressing social wide problems the youth are facing. We will continue to have the youth addressing all issue impacting the community. Having them understand and participate in the process we will have a sustainable solution better than these cosmetic responses of past years that lack young people involvement in both planning and implementing” – SASO

3. SOUTH AFRICA, KRUGER TO CANYONS - Vusi and Shoki, Program Coordinators

K2C, bordering Limpopo and Mpumalanga Provinces implements environmental projects that aim to achieve a sustainable future for all life, reconciling biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.

In March the South African Government declared a national state of disaster and a strict national lockdown with the deployment of the South African National Defence Force to support the government, which has brought the economy to a stand-still, leading to job losses and bankruptcies, which are having an effect on all with the poor being hardest hit.

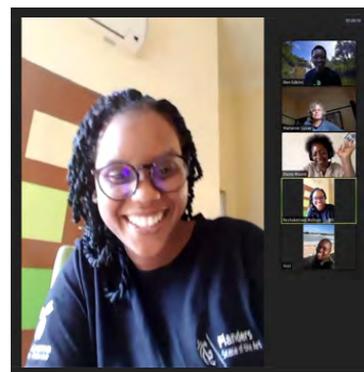




In response to COVID-19, K2C's conversations are about rebuilding not only the biosphere but also the wellbeing of the community socially and economically. It is very clear that beyond the environmental impacts there is the social cost to consider.

Since the lockdown, K2C experienced a pressing issue of human and wildlife conflict. While the environment is recovering and animals from the nearby parks can be seen in towns coming closer to humans, poaching of wildlife and people's livestock has increased. K2C held meetings with traditional authorities to discuss these issues.

Youth environmental monitors continue to receive government stipends during lockdown and are given research assignments related to sustainable development goals. While they are not able to engage directly with communities due to lockdown, they continue their monitoring and data collection via WhatsApp.



"We are having an approach that encourage environmental monitors not to see COVID-19 as a crisis but draw positives on rebuilding post COVID-19. We have procured safety equipment for them so they can go ahead and come back to work."
— Kruger to Canyons

K2C also shared a how-to video made in a local language with regional network members on [making masks using 2litre plastic bottles](#).

Way Forward

In response to COVID-19 crises K2C will rework their activity framework to be more socially inclined, integrating the environment and social elements. Moving forward they will work closely with social development teams, Indunas and ward councilors.

"Water plays a big role in the community, inequalities around water are apparent for example who has access, who fetches water, where and how far do they have to go. We need a conversation around this and our youth must lead personal community stories around water issues" — Kruger to Canyons

The new group of Environmental Monitors have three year contracts and will be trained as film facilitators. K2C is considering facilitator training workshops via Zoom together with STEPS. The Environmental Monitors are provided with data and have smartphones.

"We are seeing a rise with youth leadership in the community and their voices being heard. We need more of visual tools to continue championing youth issues. Social media, filming and production skills are in demand because they have a wider global reach." — Kruger to Canyons

4. ZAMBIA, ALBINISM FOUNDATION - John and Duncan, Program Coordinators

"You can imagine people with albinism suffer from constant stigma and victimization. Now they have to stay at home in sometimes very abusive set ups,. Some of our members have bitterly complained that they can't stay at home because of discrimination and mistreatment that happens at home. They rather come to the office to escape. With the restrictions on movement they can't come anymore. When we interact with them we notice the strain on their mental wellbeing" — AFZ

Zambia is experiencing a partial lock down with restriction of movement and gatherings. This is affecting the rights of young people with albinism who are already a vulnerable group. Members of Albinism Foundation are struggling to meet their basic needs in their homes in terms of food security and some are reporting discrimination and abuse at home during the lock down



“Many young people with albinism come from broken homes. Some of them come to our office and get involved in programs, that help to escape certain things which happen to them at their homes. During this pandemic they have to stay at home, spending much time with their families is a challenge.” – Albinism Foundation Zambia

During the lock down schools are closed. While some schools started online lessons, many members of Albinism Foundation are not able to work online because they lack smart phones, internet access and knowledge on how to use computers which is also aggravated by their often poor eye sight.

“Like you can see, this zoom meeting with you it’s our first time – it has been a challenge, we are not used to these kinds of platforms.” – Albinism Foundation Zambia

Despite the COVID-19 restrictions John and his team made [a music video](#), organised a funeral for a member and are staying connected via WhatsApp group.

Way Forward

AFZ wants to build resilience of young people with albinism to have the skills, knowledge and confidence to cope better with the impact of COVID-19 despite the circumstances and make their voices heard.

AFZ intends to scale up building the capacity of young people with albinism to work online, through the training corner in their office, with computers and laptops, to teach their members basic computer and internet skills. Although some members have challenges with online due to poor eyesight, they are challenging themselves to use online channels to address issues which young people with disabilities are facing. AFZ is part of a wider disability network advocating for inclusion of people with disabilities.

AFZ is able to continue conducting facilitated film screenings with smaller groups practicing social distancing in controlled environments not in public places like markets.

The facilitators are using cell phones to document what is happening in the communities for advocacy and awareness building purposes and for reporting.

“We really appreciate the filming skills, using cell phones which we received through STEPS. Even during lockdown, our members are using cell phones to document activities for advocacy.” – Albinism Foundation Zambia

AFZ plans to be more visible on online channels such as opening an online disability channel that screens documentaries and programs about disabilities

“This is something we don’t have in our country at the moment” – Albinism Foundation Zambia

5. ZIMBABWE, MY AGE - Joseph, Program Coordinator

Zimbabwe is experiencing indefinite lockdown, which is magnifying already existing challenges faced by young people. Because of travel restrictions, access to medical facilities outside people's areas of residence is denied, unless it's COVID-19 related and one has a special permit to travel.



In rural areas, health facilities are mostly far and due to travel restrictions, access to medical services and sexual reproductive products are unavailable. The cost of medication is also now beyond the reach of many.

"A mobile clinic in Masvingo district revealed 90 percent of the youth in one of the villages tested positive for STIs during this lock down period" – My Age, Zimbabwe

Gender based violence cases are on the rise. *"We are also anticipating an increase in teenage pregnancies and unsafe abortions. Mostly child headed family's orphans, and young girls who are selling sex are at risk."* – My Age, Zimbabwe

Unemployment has been extremely high already before COVID-19. Most youth survive within the informal sector and have lost income due to lockdown restrictions. Borders and the remittances of migrants which families rely on have been lost. The cost of living has increased.

During the lockdown, My Age started working with National Aids Council and the Ministry of Health as part of the information and dissemination task force. Together with other youth networks they embarked on a social media campaign as a symbol for solidarity and oneness to say you are not alone we are together.



The aim is to raise awareness on COVID-19 and rally the youth to play their part in the COVID -19 fight, addressing myths and misconceptions and the lack of adequate information about COVID-19 through on a daily community radio slot on "HEVOI" station.

They are also creating information material for persons with disabilities, who are a vulnerable group during this pandemic.

They are also developing a position paper that looks into the preparedness of the health system during the pandemic.

Way Forward

"Our organizational values are focused on bettering the lives of rural youth, when COVID-19 broke out we already worried about young people in the rural areas we work in. We work long hours its more than a job it's a passion and we are committed and dedicated to our work." – My Age, Zimbabwe

My Age will continue to lobby for sexual and reproductive health and rights of young people. They will use facilitated film screenings and are also considering virtual screenings with the option of reimbursing data costs to viewers.

"The new STEPS film "Fatherhood" comes at an opportune time as we have a new program brother 2 brother focusing on young men and boys" – My Age, Zimbabwe

MyAge has identified the need for more youth facilitators to receive training to be able to respond to the impact of COVID-19.

“As young people we must be ready with skills and knowledge to lead our communities towards resilience.”
– My Age, Zimbabwe

6. UGANDA, RENDEZVOUS YOUTH GROUP - Dieudonné and Martha, Program Coordinators

The Media for Change program of the Refugee Law Project shared their observations of the impact of COVID-19 on the refugee youth, they are work with.



“It has disrupted the youth’s livelihoods, they were caught unprepared. Most of them work odd jobs and live from hand to mouth. Now they have lost their source of income. Refugee youth are being excluded and are not eligible for food and economic relief reserved for citizens. The youth in the settlements are unable to wash hands regularly because sanitizers and soaps are a luxury they cannot afford. Refugee youth feel targeted in arrests for violating lockdown rules. They lack access to information about lockdown regulations because they are not communicated in their languages.” – Rendezvous

Even under lockdown members of the Rendezvous youth group have shown innovation by making face masks and crafts for income generation.

They have produced [music videos](#) to raise awareness about the COVID-19 pandemic regardless of not being able to access most of their equipment which they usually hire from other organizations and with little to no budget.



Some youth have started backyard gardens as inspired by the screening of the STEPS film [Morris’ bag](#).

Way Forward

As soon as restrictions are lifted, the Rendezvous youth group will continue to conduct facilitated film screenings to engage with other youth refugees to raise awareness about COVID-19 and build resilience to mitigate the impact of the crises.

An income generating component and access to data needs be incorporated into their program to secure their livelihood through strengthening their media skills, access to production equipment and entrepreneurship opportunities.



7. LESOTHO, SM&D

The national lockdown has been lifted however restrictions on gatherings and social distancing rules have been put in place. Lesotho has been experiencing a major food security crisis, border closures and restrictions have severely impacted the economy and livelihoods of the people.



SM&D had to slow down community activities realizing the risk of infection, if community activities involve gatherings without personal protective equipment (PPE). They met with the Ministry of Health (MOH), Health Education Division (HED) under the Disease Control Department to discuss ways the organization can support MOH efforts and began working on an action plan in consultations with partners, community leaders, youth.

They started a pilot facilitated film screening program aimed at addressing pre-existing challenges like HIV/AIDS, SGBV including facilitating access to SRHR services for their community members especially youth. They are also looking at expanding engagement of youth via social media and radio platforms. After relaxed lock-down measures SM&D conducted sample screenings with small audience groups while adhering to strict hygiene and preventive guidelines. The team also shared this [short video clip](#) to provoke dialogue on social media and to inform stakeholders, service providers and government on youth opinions or experiences.



Way forward

“Despite the fact that we are in the midst an uncertain environment, we are working as much as possible to stay ahead of the change, and to use our various communications tools to ensure our target beneficiaries are not left behind.” – SM&D

SM&D will continue to focus on facilitated community film screenings and the use of social media to engage with young people on social economic challenges (HIV/AIDS, SGBV, Poverty, Unemployment etc) which are aggravated by COVID-19.

The following partner organisations from the STEPS regional network participated in interviews, conducted in May 2020.

Botswana, **Centre for Youth of Hope (CEYOHO)** empowers young people living with HIV and advocates for Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights and access to the treatment.

Malawi, **Salima AIDS Support Organization (SASO)** promotes Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights in Salima district for young people.

Malawi, **Social Mobilization for Transformation (SMOT)** uses community film screenings with young people to promote social justice in the Dowa district.

South Africa, **Kruger to Canyons Biosphere Region NPC (K2C)** coordinates and implements a range of conservation and sustainable development projects in Limpopo and Mpumalanga.

Zambia, **Albinism Foundation of Zambia (AFZ)** promotes the welfare and human rights of persons with albinism.

Zimbabwe, **MY AGE** focuses on innovative youth engagement and empowerment with emphasis on Sexual and Reproductive Health for young people in Masvingo and Mashonaland East Provinces.

Uganda, **The Media for Social Change Program (M4SC)** from the Refugee Law Project amplifies the voices of forced young migrants by empowering them to become effective advocates for their own rights and wellbeing.

Lesotho, **Sesotho Media & Development (SM&D)** uses films as a tool for social change with Mobile Video Units and facilitated film screenings throughout the country.

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