This quarter has been quite engaging and exciting, with some moments of deep reflection to YWCAA. Politically, Kenya has rather been calm. On the economic front, inflation and hard economic times continue to affect the entire nation, with the poor bearing the heaviest burden. There have been numerous reported and unreported cases of social injustice, particularly those affecting women, young people and the vulnerable. Cases linked to depression such as withdrawal and lose of hope among the youth who are under drugs and substance abuse, and cases of suicide, or attempted suicide have been rampant. On a positive note, this quarter has seen YWCAA implement a number of projects, and enhanced its networking ability through the Resource Mobilization and Visibility event which marked the International Day of Rural Women celebrated every 15th October. YWCAA engaged with the public, private sector, individual philanthropists, well wishers and the media to rally support, and to share with the public its work with grandmothers from the rural poor areas of Makueni, Kisumu and Homabay together with their counterparts who live in deplorable conditions within the informal settlements of Nairobi. YWCAA is working very hard to strengthen community resilience in different ways, and one among those exciting projects is the Grandmothers’ Spearheaded Movement Building. The project builds on YWCAA’s strategic objectives in the 2017-2022 Strategic Plan, and applies an integrated and a holistic approach to advocate for equal rights and social justice. At YWCAA, we believe transformation in communities can only be attained through concerted efforts, and by empowering those who are committed, and whose levels of resilience have been tested in years of their existence. Through our trans-generation approach, the grandmothers have remained committed and continue to mobilize the younger generation of different ages, gender and of diverse backgrounds to join the movement. We continue to appreciate the support that, we as an organization has received from our partners, allies, friends and relatives in transforming the society by creating and nurturing a better generation that is prepared and equipped to face challenges brought about by the New World Order and its effects.

By Ms. Peres Abeka

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The above mentioned Workshop was held in September 2018 at Tumaini House meeting chambers. The aim of the workshop was to create an understanding on the dangers of Violence Against Women (VAW) in promotion of a violent free environment for marginalized women and girls and seek their support in behavior and attitude change.

The participants were Grandmothers/ BAWA/Young Women & Community GBV Activists from Kibagare, Mukuru, Kibera & Kawangware informal settlements of Nairobi.

The facilitators encouraged the GBV activist/advocates to be ready and strong when dealing with GBV cases as it’s a matter of life and death. Most people lack knowledge on GBV and they should be empowered so that they can handle the cases effectively. Emphasis was also made on reporting of GBV cases and the need for psychological support for the survivors. Most women who undergo domestic violence are not empowered economically, hence are more vulnerable. Women should therefore, be economically empowered to reduce over-dependence on their spouses.

Due to lack of knowledge on GBV, it is critical to organize more awareness forums aimed at sensitizing the public on the dangers of GBV and the need for concerted efforts to avert GBV.

1. Community & Stakeholders Awareness Creation Workshop

The YWCAA team held a workshop for community professional representatives to impart them with knowledge and skills on how to support and build on the grandmothers spearheaded movement effectively. The Community Professionals and YWCAA staff would train members of BAWA and grandmothers to effectively carry out peer to peer community outreaches. The workshop was held at Milele Hotel in South C, Nairobi in the month of September 2018. The facilitators were YWCAA’s volunteer Legal and Community Mobilization Experts, Peggy Achieng’ and Phillis Mwangi respectively. The objective of the workshop was to help the participants understand how they can be

2. Community Volunteer Professionals Workshop

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great enablers and how they can use movement building as a tool to push for change at all levels; and the basic legal principles and rights of citizens. At the end of the training, each participant drafted an Action Plan showing their plans to support the grandmothers in their efforts to apply movement building to agitate for change in their communities.

3. Peer Educators Workshop to Strengthen Grandmothers Movements

This activity was conducted by the YWCAA team during October 2018 in its areas operation that is Nairobi, Makueni, Homabay and Kisumu respectively.

The aim of the workshop was to create an understanding, and equip the grandmothers who will be Peer Educators with skill and knowledge; enhance their ability to create, join and participate in Movement building processes. They are expected to carry out a community outreach to educate their peers on the importance of coming together to support one another and advocate for equal rights and social justice within their environs.

4. The Afica Women Development Fund Grand finale CEO forum

The AWDF held a three-day Directors forum and Coaching at Premier Best Western Airport Hotel in Accra, Ghana. In attendance were 30 selected leaders from 60 feminist leaders from different parts of African continent who initially participated in the 18 and 9 months leadership and governance coaching program under 3 coaches Paula Fray, Hope Chigudu, Yene Assegid, with support of the AWDF. The AWDF believes that feminism as an ideology, provides a strong powerful and safe container within which coaching happens.
Hence the aim of the coaching programme has been to nurture and support the evolvement of a cadre of African feminist leaders, to support them to grow, develop and bring changes in the world. The initial coaching program consisted of 18 months and the subsequent ones consisted of 9 months. 60 African feminist leaders have been coached from different parts of African continent. Ms. Peres Abeka and Ms. Eunice Mwende represented YWCAA in the coaching program, under Coach Paula for 9 months. Eunice participated in the grand finale event in Ghana. It marked the end of the coaching program, and it aimed at experience sharing and evaluation. Through it, the AWDF provided a space to managers, governance teams and staff to grow, and to build on team synergy. YWCAA immensely benefited from the coaching program and the transformation is visible in every aspect of management of the organization, with a team that is more exposed, united and more focused to advocate for equal rights and social justice for women, young people and the vulnerable.

All partners, organizations and stakeholders promised to take part in eradicating GBV within the community. The Department of Children and Department of Interior and Coordination also promised the CHVs and other stakeholders, that they would fully take charge of case reported in their Offices and work hand in hand with all the stakeholders involved towards eliminating GBV.

5. The Mukuru Community Health Volunteers (CHVs) & Stakeholders Dialogue Meeting

The YWCAA team was part of the participants who graced this event that was organized by GBV activists. Among the participants were representatives from the Department of children, Life Guard Community, Based Organization, Kituo cha Sheria, GBV CoordinatorDepartment of Interior and Coordination at Mariguini Chief’s Camp Hall in October 2018. The main objective was to share GBV cases, challenges and recommendations on the way forward to help manage GBV cases in the informal settlements of Nairobi, most notably Mukuru. Also, to bring onboard other partners to help support in fighting GBV. The GBV cases reported were discussed, their progress in court noted and relevant personnel notified. Challenges during reporting time were highlighted and addressed by relevant stakeholders.
This dialogue meeting also provided YWCAA with a platform to gather community feedback on cases related to GBV; data & information on GBV within the informal settlements; and expand its visibility through increased number of partners and enhanced networking & collaboration within Starehe Sub-county. Worth noting is that some members of Mukuru BAWA and grandmothers group are part of the CHV network within the informal settlement.

6. BoD & Staff/Volunteers Institutional Capacity Building Workshop

The YWCAA BoD, Staff and Volunteers held an workshop to evaluate the status of the institutional capacity development that had been ongoing since 2016. The open discussion workshop was held at the Grace House Resort in Nairobi in July 2018. Members of the Board together with the staff highlighted the benefits of the program at both institutional and individual basis.

The program also had mentorship and coaching component for the staff and volunteers that would allow them practice skills learnt from the training. As a result YWCAA adopted a new financial system that is efficient, effective and transparent with help from some of the BoD members who have experience in the finance sector. YWCAA had improved significantly and is able to implement projects in the communities effectively. Moreover, the new strategic plan had identified other priority areas that required YWCAA to address its main goal of reducing the HIV/AIDS resurgence. This meant that there was need to build the management capacity to address these emerging issues effectively.

7. Makueni Visit and Monitoring & Evaluation

The activity was carried out by YWCAA team in August 2018 at Vulueni Location in Makueni County. The main objective was to evaluate the YWCAA’s grandmothers project in partnership with Stephen Lewis Foundation (SLF). This helped YWCAA highlight the impact & recommendation of the project for future development of proposals.

During this period, the Makueni grandmothers practiced various income-generating activities (IGAs) like table banking that enabled them to borrow soft loans from the group kitty for purposes of development and return with minimal interest charged after a duration set by members. This is a best practice that has seen the grandmothers lives and that of their household improve.
They also practice basket-weaving, rope making and farming as other IGAs, which helps sustain their day-to-day living. They appreciated YWCAA for the continued support both financial and for emotional support. Most notably the monthly OVC support, which help educate and feed their dependents.

The grandmothers are still struggling as bread winners in most families where parents have died out of HIV/AIDS related complications. They requested YWCAA to link them to other micro-finance institutions to enable them access more funds to expand their businesses as individuals and as a group and also support them in marketing their products.

In attendance were representatives from Civil society organizations, Private & Public sectors. Some of which were Women Fighting AIDS in Kenya (WOFAK) representative, The African Medical and Research Foundation (AMREF) representative, Kiambu People Living With HIV/AIDS (KIPEWA) representative, representative from office of MP Dagoretti North sub county, CEO Mvuli event organiser, CEO Siviwe event organizers, YWCAA’s beneficiaries from its respective project areas among others. In the event YWCAA was glad to confirm that as at end of October 2018, YWCAA’s annual income reached the 30% growth as projected in its 3 years Resource Mobilization Strategy (1st June 2017 to 31st May 2020) owing it to its fundraising strategies.

8. Visibility & Resource Mobilization event

YWCAA established a strong Resource Mobilization Committee (RMC) that successfully coordinated a visibility and resource mobilization event in consultation with an event organizing company. The event was one of the activities in the grant-coaching project in partnership with AWDF, which was held in October 2018 at Moi Avenue Primary grounds in commemoration of the International Day of Rural Women.

In addition to proposal development, YWCAA adopted new fundraising strategies like mob funding through Mpesa Paybill account for the organization, the Paybill number is 534539. The event also gave a platform for YWCAA beneficiaries to showcase their hand work and sell their finished products as another way of mobilizing funds. The event advertisement was aired in Nation Television Stations (NTV) from 25th of September to 4th October increased YWCAA’s visibility and attracted likeminded organizations. As a result, more than 10 non-governmental organizations and 7 private institutions have expressed interest to partner with YWCAA, while others have made pledges to support its work.
YWCAA TEAM

Partners

STOP AIDS NOW!

Sentrim

maisha!

National AIDS Control Council

care

Cordaid

the Stephen Lewis Foundation

NAIROBI CITY COUNTY

African Women's Development Fund

LEAP LEARNING

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