

DETAILS SUMMARY OF THE THEMATIC AREAS

PRIORITY 1: HIV/ AIDS, Sexual and Gender Based Violence, Teenage Pregnancy and Early Marriage

CCYA is concerned about the increased rate of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. We are aware that this challenge is more pronounced among young people; though the absence of a detailed research makes it difficult to articulate the extent of the challenge. Sierra Leone continues to be ranked as one of the countries with the highest rates of teenage pregnancy and early marriage in the world. We are therefore cognizant of the vulnerability of young girls and that exposes them to gender based violence, teenage pregnancies and early marriage. Stigma and discrimination of HIV/AIDS survivors, survivors of SGBV, teenage mothers and commercial sex workers among other vulnerable groups are a major concern for CCYA. Thus, we commit ourselves to put these vulnerable groups at the centre of our work; promoting access to comprehensive services, awareness of their rights and knowledge of support services as well as positive attitudes and behaviours. We will employ various strategies to ensure their involvement in community development processes and livelihood activities as well as strengthen our relationships with them. Our strategic objective towards addressing HIV/AIDS, SGBV, teenage pregnancy and early marriage for the next 5 years is:

Reduce incidents of sexual reproductive health problems and HIV/AIDS

PRIORITY 2: Youth Participation in governance and decision- making processes at all levels

As CCYA, we recognize youth participation in governance and decision making processes as a key priority. We are deeply concerned with the low levels of participation of youth in governance related activities such as elections, peace and security, policy making and implementation, development planning, budgeting, implementation of development plans, monitoring and evaluation. We therefore commit to contribute towards building the capacity of youth to increase knowledge on their civic rights and responsibilities, create platforms for youth engagement with decision makers for transparency and accountability. We will therefore thrive to create strategic links at all levels. To strengthen our advocacy we will set out a clear Advocacy and Communications Strategy with clear advocacy targets. We will work jointly with youth, youth focused CBOs and CSOs to establish structures and processes that enhance inclusive governance and decision making processes. In that regard therefore, the strategic objective that speaks to this priority area is

Increase the level of youth participation in governance and decision making at all levels

PRIORITY 3: Livelihood Security

We are mindful of the fact that uplifting the status of youth especially those from the marginalized sections of the society including PWDs calls for sustainable and innovating strategies. We therefore, inspire to work towards advocating for youth empowerment, capacity development, initiate and / or promote income generation activities and work with youth self-help groups and ensure the provision of technical support for sustainable youth projects. We will especially target youth in agriculture and business. We will promote young people's access to credit with little or no collateral. We seek to inspire innovation among youth, promote partnerships and productive groups; as well as access to vocational training to educate and generate employment opportunities for youth. Our strategic objective in this regard is;

Youth empowerment and livelihood security

PRIORITY 4: Protection of Human Rights, Justice and the Rule of Law for Youth

As a youth focused national NGO; we are deeply concerned with the state of human rights violations and limited access to justice especially with regards to youth in conflict of the law. Cases take long to be prosecuted and some youth are detained for longer period without being tried. This is exacerbated by a general lack of knowledge of the rule of law and related policies and legislations. In addition, inaccessibility of legal services as a result of distance to legal board, lack of awareness and poverty that makes it difficult for youth to hire lawyers continues to be barriers to access justice. We will therefore work towards increasing knowledge of human rights, justice and the rule of law connecting youth in conflict with the law with various institutions for support services such as legal board. The strategic objective speaking to this priority are is;

Ensure protection of Human Right, Justice and the Rule of Law for youth

PRIORITY 5: Violence, alcohol and substance abuse

We are concerned about the increased incidents of violence by youth especially crime related and political violence. Closely related to this are the high cases of alcohol, drug and substance abuse by youth that expose them to vulnerability and criminal activities. CCYA commits to contribute towards combating the incidences of violence, alcohol and substance abuse by youth through intensive engagement, awareness raising, media and outreach activities. We will work closely with youth to create ambassadors and peer educators. In school awareness raising activities will also be promoted. Our strategic objective in this regard is;

Reduce levels of violence, alcohol and substance abuse by youth

PRIORITY 6: Staff Development

We realize that as our organisation CCYA continues to grow, investment in staff capacity is key to achieving our vision. Thus, we thrive to build staff capacity to match our organizational needs and best practices. We therefore commit to conduct an organizational capacity assessment that will support us to identify gaps for capacity development. We will develop a Human Resources Development Plan that details identified needs and articulates plans of addressing them. In addition, we will leverage on our relationship with donor organizations and INGOs to benefit from staff capacity development. We will ensure staff benefit from online and international trainings. A mentorship programme that takes on board internal and external mentors will be established. Our strategic objective is therefore;

Human resources development

PRIORITY 7: Environment & Disaster Management

Environmental issues including climate change are a topical issue globally, as the impact continues to affect populations across the world. CCYA is motivated by the desire to build awareness and knowledge of environmental issues among youth; create youth cadres able to disseminate information related to environment and disaster management including climate change. We recognize that throughout the world, youth play a key role in projects related to environment and disaster management. We seek therefore; to implement campaigns and initiatives to promote adaptation to climate change and disaster risk reduction behaviours. We will provide training and capacity building to spread climate change messages and lobby for the involvement of youth in decision making processes related to environment and disaster management. In addition, we will embark on social mobilisation, train and support young cadres for dissemination of environmental and disaster management messages. Our strategic objective in this regard is;

Ensure young people take part in actions and solutions to environment related crisis and management of disasters