Africa

Presentation on Young Women Leadership
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The Context - Africa

- Low status of women, women’s limited participation in politics and decision-making,
- High level of illiteracy, limited access of girls to education
- Poor sexual and reproductive health indicators
- HIV/AIDS infection rate high among girls and women,
- Conflict, Natural Disasters and Violence against Women
- High population of refugee women and internally displaced women,
- Poverty, Globalisation, Trade liberalisation and Unemployment
- Harmful traditional practices,
- Culture, tradition and religious constructs of gender roles
The YWCA Outreach - Africa

31 Associations,
28 Affiliated
Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon, Congo DR Congo, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe
and 3 developing
Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, and Mali

In the 4 year questionnaires
Africa has 42,253 members, (of these young women were 18,876) and Volunteers, are 5,504
The YWCA Outreach-Africa

- The 28 affiliated associations have a total of 515 national branches that work in 287 towns and work with more than 10,000 communities.
- The associations have hotels, hostels, schools and kindergartens that provide income and safe spaces for women and girls.
Developing YWCA Groups

- Mali
- Burkina Faso
- Cote D’Ivoire

- These groups are already active and provide training for young women and girls in 49 localities and villages
Programme Priorities: SRHR and HIV

- Promoting the right of young women to access services and information which will enable them to reduce their risk and vulnerability to infection
- Protecting the right of HIV positive young women to access reproductive health services and ARVs
- Ensuring Voluntary Counselling and Testing services are responsive to young women’s needs
- Providing Nutritional support and Home Based Care
- Partnering with networks that facilitate access to services for young women
Programme Priorities:
Violence against women

- Creating awareness among young women of the existing mechanism for protecting their right to life free of violence-CEDAW, African Protocol on Women’s rights, national laws on domestic violence and SGBV through participation in coalitions and networks
- Providing shelter and referrals to networks that provide medical and legal services
- Providing safe spaces for survivors to tell their story and heal
- Promoting faith based community initiatives that protect young women and educating young men on behaviour change
Programme Activities: Economic Justice

- Crafts and dress making
- Legal Literacy for domestic workers
- Micro credit and revolving funds for groups
- Hostel /Hotel Management and Food production
- Kindergarten training and Day care centres
Programme Priorities: Peace with Justice

- Mobilising women to participate in peace initiatives and coalitions of organisations promoting peace
- Documenting women and girls experiences in political crisis and conflict situations
- Providing shelter and trauma counselling for survivors of violence during conflict
- Enhancing access to justice and leveraging space for young women from faith communities to speak to policy makers
- Advocating for the implementation of UN SCR 1325
World YWCA-organised Regional Training Institutes (RTI)

- The World YWCA organized the African Regional Training Institute (ARTI) hosted by the YWCA of Nigeria in Lagos, Nigeria, from June 6th to June 13th 2009, around the theme: **African Women Creating Safe and Secure Communities**: Enhancing the Capacity of YWCAs to Strengthen the Response to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, HIV and AIDS and Violence Against Women.
World YWCA-organised Regional Training Institutes (RTI)

- The African Regional Training Institute brought together 141 women leaders including 37 young women under 30 years old (including 3 openly positive young women) from 29 African countries. The young women had their own closed one-day consultation, *the Young Daughters of Africa Leadership Dialogue*, where they were able to share, discuss and plan in a safe space.
Partners:

- Other YWCAs at regional and global level
- National Governments
- Packard Foundation
- UNDP
- UNIFEM
- UNICEF
- UN_ECA
- African Council of Churches
- African Women Development Fund
- Global Fund
- African Union
- Femme Afrique Soldarity
- Urgent Action Fund
- IPPF
- Red Cross
- World Day of Prayer
- Church World Service
- ICCO
- EED
- WAGGS
- NCA
- Realizing Rights
Challenges

- Attracting and retaining young women
- Limited technical capacity
- Transport and financial resources for sustaining activities
- Getting a balance between service provision and advocacy
- Increasing conservatism among faith groups limiting young women’s access to accurate information
Opportunities

- Substantial compliance to Standard of Good Management and Accountability
- Young women leaders managing programmes
- Proximity to faith and community based young women
- Highly skilled volunteers
- Participation in global regional and national networks of faith, youth and women advocates for social justice
- Support from World Office providing information and capacity building opportunities for young women
BEST PRACTICES

- Model of intergenerational leadership in the Governance (Board and Council) - Young women leaders – form 30%
- Combining services with mobilisation of young women for collective advocacy action for access to health education peace and dignity
- Partnerships, voice & visibility of young women, - internship exchange progs attending key meetings
- Building a strong sustainable financial base and access to national regional and international resources