RESULTS SUMMARY

The rise of the social movement, Youth4parliament (Y4P), – a force to be reckoned with in Zambian politics

Author: ActionAid Denmark (2023)　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　**Find project on OpenAid** ⧉

PROJECT		
Title:	**ActionAid Denmark SPAI & SPAII programme, Zambia country programme**	
Partner:	ActionAid Denmark (AADK), ActionAid Zambia (AA Zambia), Youth4Parliament (Y4P)	
Country:	Zambia	
Period:	2018 - 2022	

CHANGE

Y4P has grown into an internationally recognised movement with 60.000+ grassroots mobilisers in 2022. Y4P increases youth representation and their political power was evident in the 2021 elections when young people turned up in record numbers and 6 elected parliament members; 12 mayors; & 200+ district councillors were associated with Y4P. In 2022, Y4P got the Youth Parliamentary Caucus established; the movement changed leadership; and branched out across Africa incl. launching a Y4P Malawian chapter.

CONTEXT

Young people make up 36,7% of the Zambian population, they are underrepresentended in politics & their civic space continuously shrinks. Y4P was started in 2018 by 2 young people in Lusaka as a response to this reality: Nawa Villy says: "I co-founded Y4P with a friend in 2018, because of the side-lining of youth (…). We want to challenge people who have been in power for a long time.They threatened us, arrested us, and threw money at us to neutralise us". A 2019 analysis showed that Y4P needed support to sustain & scale their impact.

CONTRIBUTION

AADK & AA Zambia has, based on the capacity analysis, supported Y4P since 2019 with mentoring, trainings, action tools & flexible funding a.o. This has helped Y4P to build their model for decision-making, campaigns & growth to develop into a structured movement with an national outreach. AADK supports Y4P to go through the 'movement cycle' by continuously organising young people politically while also supporting those elected to make political changes. In 2022 AADK supported Y4P to create a new strategy towards the 2026 elections.

IMAGES

Y4P core team at a gathering in 2020 (Picture by Y4P)

Y4P sponsored election poster from 2021. Jean Chisenga was elected the youngest female Mayor in Africa.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ACTIVITIES

Support from AADK & AA Zambia has varied in scope and has at times involved almost daily collaboration including financial, mentoring, & training support, as well as legal, rapid response and security measures. In 2019 – 2020 focus was on capacity support to build the vision and strategy of Y4P and the partnership was instrumental in achieving the 'non-partisan agreement with 7 (later 8) parties to ensure their commitment to youth participation; in establishing a sustainable structure for Y4P and their growth, as well as ensuring their financial basis (financial support from the established civil society to Y4P was minimal due to inflexible systems). AADK was the first funder of Y4P's activities through a flexible financial set-up that allowed Y4P to stay true to their values. In 2021, focus was on campaigning support for the 2021 elections and mentorship to avoid backlash from the ruling powers. In 2022, support focused on a 2026 elections campaign plan, the Youth Caucus, branching out in Africa & support to the members that are now in positions of power.

LESSONS

This case shows that a locally rooted partner like AA Zambia, an agile AA Global Platform (GP), and experience with flexible tailor-made demand-driven support to movements, allows AADK to build 'people power' while ensuring their security and integrity: Not forcing a formal contract and direct money transfers on movements allows them to maintain their independence and people's ownership of it while they can resist corruption. Key to the collaboration was the acknowledgement of the constraints of the movement to tailor the support from AADK & AA Zambia. The partnership has informed a plethora of learning & tools for the standard approach to working with social movements applied in SPAII on the Global Entity on Social Movements (see Globalplatfroms.org/organising). AADK, GP Zambia and the Internationcal Center for Non-Violent Conflict are creating a booklet, Training of Trainers & Webinars based on the methods developed with Y4P to inspire others.

EVIDENCE

Change claims are supported by regular reports & the ongoing dialogue between AADK, AA Zambia and Y4P, as Thomas Luzendi, Y4P organizer, said in 2021: "They [the results] are as much yours as they are ours". The long-term investment, the flexible financial set-up and the ongoing strategising supported Y4P to weather the crisis when political parties tried to corrupt Y4P leaders by offering them high-paid positions: The leadership of Y4P crumbled for a while but with AADK's coaching, Y4P was able to return to its core principles and Nawa Willy says: "If you ask people what is the first rule of Y4P? They will say it is that we don't handle money. (...) We don't handle funds because we know money corrupts". The claims are also evidenced by the international recognition and the fact that Y4P has won two prestigious awards in 2020 & 2021. Y4P has been referenced by the US President and in 2022 met with the US Vice-President. Several documents support the change & contribution claims.

DOMAINS

Development strategy priorities:	Democratic values & human rights
Changes in the lives of people facing poverty, marginalisation or vulnerability	-
Changes in laws, policies and practices that affect people's rights	X-
Changes in the capacity of organisations and communities to support rights	X-
Changes in partnerships and collaborations that support people's rights	X-
Changes in participation of groups facing poverty, marginalisation or vulnerability	X-
Changes in local leadership of development and humanitarian work	-

This format consists of two overall sections: on page one, the results summary communicates results to an external audience using a brief summary of what has been achieved; while page two provides an opportunity to explain the background and evidence behind the claims made as part of the summary.
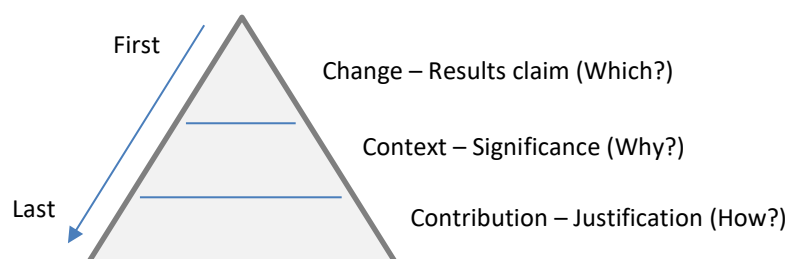
Page 1: Results summary
The results summary should outline of the overall change. This should be phrased in a clear and concise manner, focusing on the benefits for target groups or communities, and preferably start out by stating the overall key message as a one-line statement. It is thus important to prioritise what the key message should be and not attempt to describe every possible change that may have occurred.

Note that case studies should not describe all of the activities carried out during the implementation. Instead, it should focus on one or two key messages to be highlighted – which may also span several projects – and only outline activities to backup contributions to the highlighted change.

This can be illustrated as a "reverse funnel." First, the "change" section introduces the overall results claim, which answers the "which." Note that this is done before any details have been provided. Second, the "context" section outlines the problem being addressed by the project and the significance of the change. For example, by explaining "why" it benefits target groups or communities.

Finally, and lastly, the "contribution" section should provide examples to justify for "how" the intervention contributed to realising change. Note that this should focus on the plausible linkage between the change and intervention rather than describing details from activities. It is often useful to think of this as a reverse theory-of-change, i.e. "After we did X, then Y occurred, because of Z."

Figure 1:
Reverse funnel for communication

First

Change – Results claim (Which?)

Context – Significance (Why?)

Last

Contribution – Justification (How?)

Page 2: Additional information
The second page should provide background and evidence for project's contribution to change. It can also address technical issues that do not fit in the results summary. The section consists of the following sections:

- *Activities:* Whereas the "contribution" section on page one provides a brief summary of the project contributions to change, the "activities" section allows for more detail on the project design, organisation and underlying activities in support of the contributions made.

- *Lessons:* Describes lessons learned through the implementation. These should relate to the results claim or alternatively the project(s) as a whole. Please consider (1) novelty – i.e. whether the change represents something new – and (2) the potential to scale and/or build on lessons going ahead.

- *Evidence:* A narrative comparison between results claims and the underlying evidence. It should answer "X led to Y, because of Z," although it does not need to be phrased this way. It is useful to include references to a few selected documents for further details. Please see guidelines for more.

- *Domains and development strategy:* Describes contributions to defined domains and the Danish development strategy. Please consider limiting the number of domains to a few selected ones.