

Application form: Preparatory Study

1. Basic information

Project information	
Project title	VU Zambia
Applying DUF member organization(s)	Venstres Ungdom
Partner organization(s)	YWCA Zambia
Project locality	Lusaka, Zambia
Project period	September-October
Amount applied for (max DKK 50.000)	43.176 DKK

1.1 Summary of the Preparatory Study and the proposed project

The VU project team was overwhelmed by the experiences during our partner identification trip to Zambia in February 2019. The enthusiasm expressed by the young members of YWCA was inspiring, and we felt highly motivated to establish a sustainable partnership with this group, whose democratic values align with ours. The YWCA Youth Department expressed interest to creating stronger ties with youth from Venstres Ungdom. More specifically, the young people wanted to ensure a platform of communications and a strong sense of coherence across all districts. Based on this discussion, Venstres Ungdom wishes to conduct a second preparatory study in Zambia. The purpose of the trip is to strengthen partnership and jointly work on the application and preparations for a pilot project. The proposed project is to facilitate a YWCA youth convention where the experience of VU, hopefully, could contribute to a successful outcome.

2. The partners

2.1 Vision and work of the Danish member organization

Venstres Ungdom is a liberal youth organization working to promote democratic participation and societal awareness among young people in Denmark. VU works as a political platform for young voices in the public debate with an overall aim of mobilizing and strengthening youth in society. The values of liberty and democracy are universal, and so we wish to empower young people beyond the borders of Denmark regardless of political stands. This includes our initiative in Zambia with the non-partisan Christian organization that share our democratic core and visions of youth liberty and empowerment.

2.2 The capacity and experience of the Danish member organization

Venstres Ungdom has great experience working on international projects. This being the case in partnerships in several countries around the world including Morocco and Ukraine as well as study trips to a long list of countries, such as Russia, USA, and Israel. Apart from this, VU is involved in the European organisation of Liberal and Radical Youth parties (LYMEC) as well as its global counterpart (ILFRY) gives us a framework in which relations with international parties is routinely managed.

In February 2019 the VU project group conducted a partner identification study in Zambia which went over all expectations. During our trip, we met up with several inspiring NGO's and a progressive political party. Particularly the young members of YWCA and their burning enthusiasm blew us away, and we immediately knew we had found a suitable organization for a sustainable partnership. The final day of our trip we arranged a meeting with leading members of the "mother organization" as well as the youth department to discuss future opportunities. We brainstormed project ideas and agreed on an overall game plan - meaning that a foundation for future work has already been established.

The VU group consists of two leading members; Anne Sophie Noer (Phie) and Anne Sophie Pedersen (Sophie). Both have been part of the team from the very beginning. While Phie identified and initiated the partnership, Sophie has been in charge of the correspondence since then. Both took active part in the first visit to Lusaka and the work surrounding it, and we will keep the structure of working closely together with shared responsibilities.

2.3 Learning and anchoring of the project in the Danish member organization

As we move on with the project, we want to get more members engaged in the VU project group. Hence, we will offer different local branches to hear about our work at their open meetings, just as we will spread the word on social media. As of right now, we have already had a SnapChat takeover, made several posts from the official facebook page of Venstres Ungdoms Internationale Arbejde, and written an article for the national magasin, Liber (find it attached)

Apart from this, we will have to consistently update the international committee as well as the national board with whom we have from the start been in consistent contact, and hence before every meeting of the national board we have written a few lines about the status of the project.

Needless to say, the project will add great value to the organization. VU does not - as of right now - have partnerships in this part of the world; resulting in new knowledge and perspective to be spread in the organisation about a reality that differs greatly from what we experience in our everyday life. Though very well going, the international work of VU has not been active for that many years. Spreading the word about engagement in a youth political party not only being limited to the local branch or country will be a motivation for members of the organisation proving how voluntarism and belief in the betterment of society is not limited to the area in which one grew up.

The partner organization

2.4 Vision and work of the partner organization

Young Women's Christian Association, Zambia is an affiliate of the World YWCA movement working on the empowerment, leadership and rights of young women and girls in more than 120 countries. In Zambia, the organization's vision is: *"A safe, gender sensitive Zambia with equal opportunities and good quality of life"*.

During our visit in February, we got to experience some of the work done by the organization first hand. We visited a local health post in Chongwe as well as a temporal protected shelter in Lusaka for girls that have been abused by family members. At the "Children in Crisis Center", YWCA has created a safe home and hope of a better future. This strong emotional experience was followed by a visit to a programme called DREAMS, where we observed and participated in a "Safe Space" workshop. Mentors trained by YWCA go to local schools informing girls about reproductive health and rights. The sessions were highly pedagogical and informative for the girls.

As we got closer to the members, we realised how much good they do for society. The young members voluntarily spend their free time working for the betterment of society through various projects. During our visit, we experienced their eagerness to learn and their understanding of society and it's challenges that we think provide a perfect foundation for a partnership mutually beneficial to VU as well as YWCA. In conclusion, we are in no doubt that the work done by the organization aligns with the vision of VU. VU will partner with YWCA Zambia to work with the YWCA Youth Department which is responsible for implementing youth related projects. In order to enhance the capacity of the youth department, there is need for capacity building support. The proposed youth symposium will be one way of providing this support.

2.5 The capacity and experience of the partner organization

YWCA Zambia has more than 60 years of experience with an international anchoring, and is therefore a respected and secure partner for cooperation. A potential partnership would provide an opportunity to learn from a country as well as an organization. Hopefully it would be a two way learning process through which VU could gain new insights to further broaden our horizon.

During our visit in February, we met several leading members of the main organization as well as the youth department with whom we will be working. First of all, we held a workshop with 12 active young members participating proving the great potential that lies within the organization. After the workshop, a closer relation was established with members of the YWCA youth department; Faith, Kekeni, Valentina, Chupa, and Becker. These five young members will be part of the project group. The Key contact person from YWCA will be Patricia who will be responsible for all contractual arrangements. Other contact persons will include Mirriam, Ruth, Peggy and Sabrina.

While the YWCA National Office will be responsible for the contractual and administration arrangements, the youth department will be responsible for implementing the project. We have been consistently in contact since leaving the country in February. Furthermore, as a start, the cooperation will mainly be with the members in the capital city, Lusaka. Knowing that the pilot project will be a youth convention for members outside Lusaka as well, we hope for this preparatory study to yield an opportunity to further extend the contacts to members outside the capital city.

2.6 The structure and the organization of the partner organization

Based on the information gained during our initial visit to Zambia in February 2019, we can confirm that YWCA strongly aligns with the guidelines of DUF's international Pool. First of all, the organization is heavily based on democratic values with a Board being elected every 5 years during the National Council. It is YWCA's policy that 25% of all positions must be held by youth members. Although the organization focuses on women's rights, men are consistently thought into the equation. As we visited the organization, we were happily surprised by the number of male members advocating for their fellow females: pointing to the fact that democracy - and gender equality has to involve both genders. This is done through the men's network work which is an intervention under the Women, Youth and Children's Human Rights programme. Hence, the youth department comprises of both young men and women. YWCA heavily emphasizes the importance of working in a non-discriminatory way, as stated in its key policy elements: *"YWCA operates on a non - discriminatory policy, hence its projects and programs operate with no divide of race, sex, religion, health, economic status, geographical location, political affiliation etc."*

Youth engagement is another focus point for the organization with a 25% of youth representation at every level. Hence, we want to focus our partnership not only ABOUT but also WITH the young people proving that together we can make a change BY, FOR and WITH the young people. Needless to say, the members all do it voluntarily but with a firm belief in their actions being part of the change. Lastly, we believe the organization has the capacity to manage a project. This is being supported not only by the fact that the YWCA has extensive experience working with international organizations; but also by the impression we got from meeting the youth members with whom we will be working. During our final meeting, we had an opportunity to learn more about the organisation. Here, we heard about their stories, and how several members are in the organization as a living proof that it is possible to raise from a poor, orphaned child to a role model. An experience that we will not soon forget. This proved that they are not just in it for the money but rather to change society for the better; a belief that provides a stable ground for a lasting partnership.

2.7 Learning and anchoring of the project in the partner organization

During our stay in Zambia, we created a Facebook group that will be used as the main communication channel and through which we have been consistently in contact ever since. The project team is eager to inform us about what is going on locally. The partnership will strengthen and upscale the capacity of the youth department to implement projects and emphasize that they can create strong bonds and make an impact not only on the local context but also reaches beyond the national borders.

Our idea for a pilot project is to conduct a youth symposium which will be a gathering of members from all over the country that will have a major impact on the future work of the YWCA youth department. The young active men and women in Lusaka are highly engaged in their local communities but are missing a platform to spread their message and communicate outside the Lusaka province. Within the organization this project will ensure knowledge sharing, capacity building, and a common identity with stronger ties and dialogue across national districts.

2.8 Previous cooperation

The idea about a partnership in Zambia was inspired by our mother party Venstre, who has previously worked with Narep in Zambia through the Danish Liberal Democracy Programme. This encouraged us to gain a deeper understanding of the country and seek out further opportunities for developing projects. Building on their work, we wished to work with a new organization that was less political and more concerned with strengthening women's rights and influence. This is an important societal issue that we hope to improve through our cooperation with YWCA Zambia who addresses gender equality.

Phie and Sophie are both highly motivated to ensure further development of this sustainable partnership - and so are the members of YWCA. The VU members contribute with organizational experience and knowledge from a Danish and international context, while the YWCA members supplement this with their societal understanding and volunteer experience in a Zambian context. On the basis of shared fundamental values and mutual respect we complement each other's strengths and weaknesses. Moreover, our dialogue has been constructive, open, and constant. We therefore believe to have laid the foundation for a progression of our equal cooperation.

<p>Strengths: Strong idea for a theme of the pilot project that was already discussed with members of the YWCA board as well as leading young members.</p> <p>Extensive experience with international work contained by the YWCA. When meeting up with Mirriam, Ruth, Debbie, and Sabrina, we were blown away by their effectiveness and understanding of how to run similar projects. A strength and an understanding of the context that will be crucial in the work to come.</p> <p>Third, the enthusiasm and zest to establish a partnership in the Danish group is a clear strength providing a fundament with eagerness to start a new, long lasting partnership.</p>	<p>Weaknesses: The fact that Venstres Ungdom has not previously had a similar project in this part of the world obviously provides a weakness. Being a pilot project, we are still learning about the context. However, we greatly feel that the capacity and experience of YWCA can help us ensure that this weakness can be overcome.</p> <p>YWCA has never had a similar convention; hence, unexpected challenges might show up, just as a youth convention made in close contact with Danish young people will have to take the African context into account.</p> <p>Young partnership and hence a need to get to know each other better in order to ensure close communication and collaboration.</p>
<p>Opportunities: The preparatory study will provide an opportunity to ensure a fellow understanding of the initiating partnership.</p> <p>Never having had a similar convention, we firmly believe that the gathering of young members from all over the country is a unique opportunity for the organisation. An opportunity to establish friendships, an opportunity to gain further knowledge about organisational capacity, and an opportunity for new projects to grow.</p> <p>Actually being in Zambia provides an opportunity for the Danish Project Group to focus on the project without having to worry about everyday life.</p> <p>Being in Zambia while writing the pilot project application will ensure that it is from the start a joint process between the two organizations.</p>	<p>Threats: An obvious threat will be that the word is not spread beyond the members that are able to attend the actual convention. Inviting 2 members from each province, it is crucial that what is learned during</p> <p>Another threat is that the lessons learned during a youth convention will not spread throughout the organization.</p> <p>Being a country of tribes and chiefs, each with their own traditions and communal bylaws determined by the chieftom, these societies within society cause some cultural hindrances that need to be taken into account when building a sustainable project.</p>

2.9 Perspectives of the cooperation

Every year, VU has its general assembly in which members from all over the country gather to discuss politics, and decide what the organization is to have a stand on. Phie and Sophie have been active members since 2012 and have both taken part in this annual assembly several times. Hence, we know how important this is for an organization in order to create a common ground and sense of coherence. Furthermore, Phie works as an event planner and communications consultant at the Innovation Fund Denmark, and hence has experience planning events, while Sophie has been the head of a local branch proving her with

organization experience and skills. Experience that will be helpful in the planning of this convention.

While VU can contribute with organisational knowledge, the understanding of the context provided by the local members will provide the perfect frame for a strong collaborative partnership in arranging a youth convention. Furthermore, the young members of YWCA will have to be focal in the planning of practicalities, content, and assurance of sustainability.

3. The project to be studied - PHIE

3.1 Context analysis

Needless to say, the Zambian society differs greatly from the Danish. A substantial issue in society is gender inequality. Rooted in the culture, girl child marriages and pregnancies are major challenges in Zambia; something that was repeatedly mentioned by most of the organizations that we met during our first project visit. Statistics prove that over 30% of the 20-24-year old girls were married at the age of 18. Zambia struggles with high levels of corruption and low percentages of participation in elections. Furthermore, poverty has its clear take on the country with more than half of the population below the poverty rate¹ Across the country there are infrastructural challenges as well resulting in limited communication and mobility between districts. All of this has a wide range of consequences at national level and out in the diverse local communities.

Being a donor country, a mindset of inaction seems to dominate society - with some strong inspiring exceptions, YWCA being one of them. Voluntarism is a cornerstone of the way forward: a belief in the betterment of society and a willingness to improve the livelihood of fellow citizens. YWCA has managed to attract young people with a proactive mindset and boost their capacity. We wish to work from this groundwork and provide the youth organization with a platform to strengthen their structural and social capacity. From a Danish context we know the importance of a healthy organizational culture.

The influence today from the decision makers of tomorrow is vital. Hence, the issue of youth empowerment has to be addressed. Gathering young volunteers from all over the country will underpin the fact that decision making is not limited to the citizens of Lusaka. All in all, the symposium will focus on youth empowerment, volunteerism, and gender equality, an emphasis that will also shine through the chosen overall theme of girls' rights.

In harsh summation, we will have to manoeuvre in a societal context that includes democratic difficulties with corruption and lack of political trust and participation; relatively high rates of unemployment and poverty as well as issues with gender inequality, and limited youth engagement. Our contextual focus is on the root causes of child marriages and girl pregnancies.

However, this is the only one side of the story; Zambia is a peaceful country full of people with positive mindsets, and plenty of natural resources. The country therefore hides great potential, and we are optimistic about the future. With respects to the current context, YWCA Youth and VU feel strongly motivated to improve the societal conditions.

3.2 Questions to be investigated during the Preparatory Study

With a clear aim of fertilizing the ground for an upcoming youth symposium focusing on child marriages and girl pregnancies, gaining further understanding about this particular issue will be a key theme of the preparatory study. The pilot project will target both female and male

¹ <https://www.globalis.dk/Lande/Zambia>

representatives between the age of 18-30 with the personal capacity to engage in society. Selected members from all 10 provinces will be present at the symposium with a total of approximately 40 participants (half of them being from the capital area). The main point of this proposed project is to strengthen the organization from within by creating a common groundwork and a sense of coherence for all youth members of YWCA across districts.

The symposium will strongly align with the principles of the change triangle. First of all, the aim is to ensure the organizational development of YWCA Youth as well as capacity building of members from Lusaka and beyond. With the overall theme of young people contributing towards ending child marriage, the symposium will emphasize advocacy work; not just within the organization but also reaching out to the surrounding society. Third, the cornerstone of the youth convention will be working with young people: young people working for and with others sharing the belief in a better future in a country where human rights are oftentimes challenged. Internal capacity building is fundamental before tackling external challenges, and we are convinced that all participants will leave the symposium with renewed inspiration and a stronger sense of responsibility. In order for this to happen, the project team will have to ensure a constructive framework for the young participants. Project key words are voluntarism, capacity building, youth empowerment, and gender equality. We have decided on the framework and theme of the proposed project - the YWCA youth symposium - but still have a lot unanswered questions and decisions to be made:

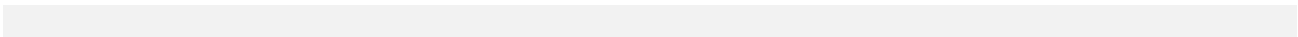
Questions to be answered during the preparatory study:

- How will we select the participating members, while ensuring gender equality and diversity?
- What activities will be conducted throughout the symposium in order to strengthen internal organizational capacity?
- What will the role of the YWCA National Office be?
- Who will the experienced and inspiring guest speakers be?
- How will we ensure an open and constructive environment encouraging voluntarism and participation?
- How will we make sure that the outcome will be anchored in the local communities?
- What are our success criteria for this symposium?
- How can we - as Danish partner organization - ensure that the lessons learned will provide the grounds for a long and stable partnership?
- How do we ensure that the YWCA youth members are prepared for the symposium?

4. The Preparatory Study - ASKP

4.1 Objectives and expected results of the Preparatory Study

The aim of the preparatory study will be threefold. First of all, the trip will provide an opportunity for the Danish delegation to better get to know the young Zambian members of YWCA. Second, the trip will provide an opportunity to learn more about the Zambian context. With the aim of establishing a pilot project that reaches beyond the capital city, the future work will be much easier when knowing more about the different local challenges that the country faces by visiting the Solwezi district in North Western Zambia meeting with the regional coordinator Chileshe. Third but not least, the trip will provide an opportunity for us to ensure that the pilot project application does not end up being pieces of paper written in the distant Denmark by VU, but rather a joint project made in collaboration between the two organizations. Many decisions have to be made in agreement ensuring an equal partnership. The objective is to prepare the symposium in the best way possible, and the expected result and concrete product will be a final pilot project application as well as a partnership agreement.



4.2 Activities and working methods

During our first visit to Zambia, we held a very successful workshop with 15 young members of YWCA participating. The main aim of the workshop was to brainstorm; not only about potential projects - but also about the strengths and challenges facing the organization and society as a whole. Since the workshop was such a success, we would like to do something similar to ensure the quality of the content of the project application. Apart from this, we will have to focus on actually writing a pilot project application needing time to gather with the five leading members of the YWCA youth discussing the content as we write. As earlier mentioned, the trip will provide an opportunity for the Danish Project team to get a further understanding of the Zambian context and the challenges that will have to be discussed at a youth symposium. Hence, we would also need to leave the capital city and go visit the Solwezi district where the young members of YWCA has put is in contact with Chileshe, the district coordinator.

With an aim of proving the strength of young people at the forefront of change, our focus will be to meet young members of the YWCA. Nevertheless, we will also meet up with the main board of YWCA to ensure that our ideas align with their guidelines as well as to get general guidance. Logical Framework Approach will be used as the cornerstone for developing our project idea and writing the application with the young members of YWCA; a tool that DUF will prepare us to use by arranging a workshop for us before we leave for Zambia.

Leaving everyday life behind zooming in on the project at hand will provide a unique opportunity to work on the proposed pilot project and finalize the application - forming the start of a long lasting partnership between the two organizations. Knowing from our visit in February how fast time flies, we this time know that we will need a few extra days - especially with our wish to visit a town outside the capital area in mind. Having these extra days will ensure the establishment of closer contact and contextual understanding.

4.3 Composition of the study team

The two Danish members taking part in the study trip will be Phie and Sophie who are both highly engaged in this project. Phie has extensive experience working on a similar DUF project in Morocco; experience that has been helpful in the process of establishing a partnership. Sophie is engaged in DLDP's work in Malawi; work that also provides her with some contextual understanding. Contributing with different but compatible competencies, the project group has been able to work effectively towards the common goal of building a lasting partnership in Zambia. Both took part in the first trip to Lusaka identifying a suitable partner organization. Aiming to start a long lasting partnership, we wish to keep some consistency in the project group for the moment before expanding prior to the pilot project.

With the preparatory study providing a base for a long and stable partnership, we find it crucial to ensure consistency and knowledge about the process leading to the project. In the fall, Anne Sophie Krog will be on exchange at Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia as part of her studies at Copenhagen Business School. Nevertheless, having been the project manager in charge of the contact to Zambia, we find it crucial that she gets to join the preparatory study ensuring stability till the project has been properly started. Coming back from Asia in December, she will remain part of the project with Phie, and together we will select new members from VU in close collaboration with the international committee.

Faith Alaka, Kekeni Nikisi, Valentina Kasonde, Chupa Kabaso, and Becker Mwewa will be representing the YWCA. All of them are members of the youth department and have great capacity and volunteer experience. Having spent several days with these young people during our first visit to Zambia, we feel very confident that they provide suitable partners for the future work.

The VU members will contribute with organizational experience and knowledge from a Danish and international context, while the YWCA members will supplement with their societal understanding and volunteer experience in a Zambian context. On the basis of shared fundamental values we complement each other’s strengths and weaknesses, thereby ensuring a sustainable development of our partnership. Having already met and worked together, we feel positive about the future projects, starting with this preparatory study.

4.4 The process leading towards development of a project

Already having brainstormed and had several meeting with the YWCA while being in Zambia, we find it highly plausible that we can somewhat finalize the pilot project application during this second visit to Zambia. This has been accounted for in the attached program with plenty of time for meetings and writing sessions. The main purpose of the trip will be to gather the needed information for the pilot project. By being with the YWCA team in person we will ensure their participation just as they will understand the process moving on from our departure. Our goal will be to submit the pilot project application to the international pool before November 1st 2019.

4.5 Risks and challenges

First of all, the risk of starting a project with an organization that we barely know will be avoided by us actually going to Zambia getting to know the members better. Knowing each other and strengthening our ties will improve the sense of community and responsibility, and hence provide a better platform for the work to come.

Second, by writing the pilot project application as a joint group rather than two different organizations thousands of kilometres apart, we will drastically improve the sustainability of the project as well as ensure that both parties agree with the content. Having had a very insightful visit to Zambia in February, we both feel like we got an impression of the Zambian society. Nevertheless, a more thorough understanding of society is needed in order to ensure relevant content in the pilot project. If we were to write the application without getting a better understanding of society, chances would be that we end up writing an application in which the content did not actually match the Zambian reality.

Making sure that the application is written in close collaboration with Becker, Chupa, Kikeni, Valentina, and Faith, we will be able to avoid the listed risks, just as us leaving the capital city will provide a crucial understanding of the local society. However, the project document will have to be approved by YWCA through its normal laid out structures and procedures.


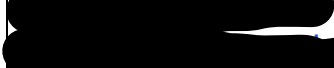




All in all, we are filled with hope for the upcoming partnership and cannot wait for the work to start.

5. Signatures

I hereby confirm that my organization fully supports this partnership and this project application, that we have knowledge about DUF’s guidelines as well as the financial guidelines and that we are prepared to take on all obligations that an approval of the application will put on us as an organization. I furthermore confirm that I have the authority to take decisions and sign agreements on behalf of my organization.	
On behalf of the Danish member organization	On behalf of the partner organization
Venstres Ungdom	Young Women’s Christian Association, Zambia
Date/Place	Date/Place
21/03/2019,	27/03/2019
Name	Name
Jakob Gjeraae Sabroe	Patricia Mphanza Ndhlovu

Position in organization	Position in organization
President	Executive Director
Signature	Signature
	
Stamp (optional)	Stamp (optional)

6. Contact information

<p>The Danish member organization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organization's name Address Telephone number Email address Website, if any Name and address of other DUF member organizations, if any 	<p>Venstres Ungdom Nørre Voldgade 82, 1358 København 70 23 51 51 Kontakt@vu.dk https://vu.dk</p>
<p>Contact person</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name of contact person Contact person's address (if different from the organization's home address) Contact person's email Contact person's telephone number 	<p>Anne Sophie Krog Pedersen   </p>
<p>The partner organization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organization's name Address Country Email address Telephone number Website, if any Name of contact person <p>If there are more than one partner, all organizations must be mentioned.</p>	<p>Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) Zambia   </p>

7. Annexes

<p>List of annexes</p> <p>Obligatory annexes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Budget (DUF format) <input type="checkbox"/> Detailed program <p>Other annexes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Article about February visit brought in the national magazine, Liber
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