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REPORTING FORMAT

SECTION A– Planning & Learning Grant Final Narrative Report

1. Your organization's (Cluster) name: Contact person and details	DEPLOY AND NURTURING GALLERY – DNG (ARUMERU CLUSTER) Nhojo Allan Kushoka +255755814165 info@dng.or.tz and nhojo@dng.or.tz
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4. Total grant amount	\$ 5,468	The amount transferred in the reporting period	\$ 5,468
Amount utilized in the period	\$ 5,195.78 *(TZS 12,877,000)	Balance not spent /overspent	\$ 272.22 (TZS 634,263.60)

* Exchange rate of \$1=TZS 2,355

5. Period covered by this report:	From:	1	OCT	2022	To:	31	MAR	2023
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1. What are the results of the last six months activities according to each objective?	
Objective 1	Building a very strong relationship among cluster partners
Activities and results	<p>Result 1. Enhanced mutual relationship with identified synergies for effective cluster member partnerships on adolescent girl's program monitoring in the project areas.</p> <p>The Arumeru cluster has effectively just concluded the six-month implementation in the Planning and Learning phase commencing from its onset in early October 2022 to March 2023 as part and parcel of the Adolescent Girls Power Program (AGPP) under CRVPF project funding. The Arumeru Cluster is composed of three originally established local organizations namely Deploy & Nurturing Gallery (DNG) as the lead cluster member, others are Tumaini Jipya-New Hope (TJ), and Vuka Initiative (VI), all based in the Arusha region, Tanzania. Under this</p>

	<p>objective, the implementation plan focused on two major interventions which were essentially implemented with achieved results as follows</p> <p>Under this result, 2 major interventions were underscored for implementation (1) conducting cluster meetings and (2) Partners’ mutual learning events. Until the six-month reporting period, a total of 12 cluster meetings were planned and conducted twice monthly throughout. The implementation embedded a rotational modality in which each partner organization was assigned to prepare and host meetings on respective premises.</p> <p>The purpose was to develop implementation flexibility, mutual ownership of AGPP trust, confidence, and organizational building experiences of the project irrespective of age and gender dimension. Cluster meetings were effectively carried out by the identified Arumeru partner member organizations. The cluster composition consists of 7 members from a consortium of 3 organizations as follows, 3 participants from DNG Tanzania (as lead organization), 2 representatives from Vuka Initiatives, and 2 representatives from Tumaini Jipya (New Hope).</p> <p>The cluster meetings were held with demonstrated effects on improved relationships through mutual learning opportunities in which experiences, challenges, and lessons learned were adequately shared at both individual and organizational setups. Similarly, cluster meetings have been explicitly assumed as significant tools to assess the effectiveness of program monitoring and backstopping purposes. In the pertinent meetings, a number of issues were transacted such as field work plans and feedback reports.</p> <p>Moreover, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was discussed, and terms were drafted, signed, and used to guide the partnership for intended results. Minutes of the pertinent meetings and reports were duly compiled for reference. Diversities of cluster members in academic qualification and work experiences offered prolific benefits to the effectiveness of project implementation such as Rural development, education, media, social work, economics, environment and natural resources, community development, and working experiences.</p>
Objective 2	Identifying Project area

Activities and results

Result 2. Strengthened project effectiveness through local support for adolescent interventions

In this reporting period, project implementation through consultative processes with identified key actors managed to identify the target groups and target areas in three priority Wards within the Arumeru District administratively locality in the Arusha region. The district is comprised of two Local Government Authorities namely Arusha and Meru district Councils respectively whose Wards are 53 in total.

The cluster had organized two local government consultative meetings specifically with District Community Development Officers in the respective local authorities with the view of formalizing processes and obtaining prior consent for informed decisions based on selection scenarios, *inter Alia*, (i) Authentication of comparative incidences on the magnitude of girl children-rights abuse and violence issues and (ii) verification of the likelihood of the existence of similar interventions to elude duplication of activities and results. In essence, 5 Wards were suggested as focal project areas. Further analysis of the context of geographic and socio-economic diversities conducted by cluster meetings eventually confirmed 3 priority Wards namely Mbuguni (under Meru District Council) as well as Nduruma and Oloirien (under Arusha DC) respectively of which the cluster sought to implement the adolescent girl's project.

In a nutshell, assessment findings confirmed the project areas identification which predominantly verified the existence of girl children's rights violence. Mbuguni Ward for instance has close proximity to the most renowned Mererani mining center of which the high influence of precarious livelihoods by local minors and traders predominantly leads to girl children's rights abuse and violence. Similarly, Oloirien Ward has a semi-urban influence (adjacent to Arusha City Centre) with significant activities involving adolescent girls. Nduruma Ward on the other hand is inhabited by villagers who are characteristically multiple-cultured with a diverse ethnic population. Those areas were the significant sites to be covered by the AGPP because there are some issues concerning adolescent girls that need to be addressed.

Such result is the contribution of three main interventions as follows;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducting project inceptions at Local Government Authorities. Project introduction activities were carried out on two levels. At the higher levels, project inceptions involved local government authorities at District Councils followed by its subordinate organs at Ward and village/street levels. The implementation approach involved organized meetings at the Local Government Authority’s office premises where cluster partners and government officials had the opportunity to elaborate the project through briefings and documentation in order to seek consent and implementation legitimacy as well as deliberating key issues of collaboration during project implementation. The cluster was introduced to the area by the official letter from District Executive Directors (DED) to conduct program activities and obtain support from lower authorities. • Conducting adolescent girls’ baseline status (mapping). Adolescent mapping was conducted in all project areas to establish baseline information for examining the status of the extent and magnitude of adolescent girls’ rights violence. The activity was preceded by capacity building by CRVPP in which cluster partners were exposed to the online orientation of Kobo toolbox software for effective guidance of adolescent girls’ power mapping procedures. <p>The implementation of adolescent power mapping reached out to a total of 507 households including 960 adolescent girls aged 0-24 years in the three wards in identified as a project which are Mbuguni, Nduruma, and Oloirien. Activities were successfully conducted between 17 and 23 November 2022. The collected information was shared through an Excel sheet and further analyzed by Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS).</p>
Objective 3	Listening to the target communities to identify needs
Activities and results	<p>Result 3. Adolescent girl’s constraints and local priorities identified</p> <p>Additionally, during the power analysis exercise, the cluster managed to listen directly to the 290 adolescent girls in their respective safe spaces, who shared their stories on lifetime experiences and challenges they face</p>

in their daily life. The power analysis exercise was conducted to understand the girls' situation, their aspirations, and their access to power resources that can help them to achieve their aspirations.

This information helped the cluster to identify the gaps and shape interventions design that can empower the girls to overcome the escalating challenges. Whereby, the cluster just organizes those needs as adolescents themselves identified and proposed the intervention to overcome their own challenges. Likewise, the previous activities in power mapping and adolescent power analysis were preceded by training to orient cluster organization with specific tools. The training took place from the 1st to the 2nd of February 2023 in Arusha. The training was attended by all cluster members. Power analysis activities took place from 15 to 25 March 2023

Moreover, the cluster also conducted community dialogues and meetings with parents, community leaders, and other stakeholders to listen to their perspectives and ensure their support for the program's activities.

The mapping exercise helped to identify the number and location of adolescents in the program areas, while the power analysis exercise helped to identify the specific needs and challenges facing adolescent girls in those areas.

By listening to the target group through these exercises, the Arumeru cluster was able to gather important information that would guide their program interventions and ensure that their activities were responsive to the needs of the adolescent girls in their program areas.

Based on the above activities, lead to results; that the mapping exercise reached 507 households and gathered information about 960 adolescent girls. In the power analysis exercise, a sample size of 300 adolescent girls was involved. Additionally, the Power analysis exercise was conducted, covering 290 adolescent girls aged 12 to 24 in the same three wards.

The cluster partners conducted power analysis workshops and developed a power analysis tool based on five tools for analyzing the power of adolescent girls. The designed guiding document had 5 tools and was fully applied in rows as follows

- Thinking about the power

- Girls and their bodies
- Girls and confidence
- Where girls meet
- Girls and money

The tool was tested, and the resulting report was shared with the national consultant and regional coordinator of the AGP program for approval before the actual exercise began. During the power analysis exercise, the Arumeru cluster successfully reached 290 adolescent girls in three program areas, including young mothers, pregnant girls, and both school as well as out-of-school girls.

2. What challenges have you encountered as a cluster during the implementation of this grant?

In this implementation phase, a few challenges emerged and are hereby reported as follows;

- Intricacies for cluster Joint bank account opening. Tanzania's banking policy and regulations prohibit unregistered cluster operating accounts. Opening a Bank account is restricted to either personal or licensed and registered entities. Our cluster relationship is based on a voluntary loose coalition that lacks the credibility to open a joint cluster account. However, flexibility was applied as critical to allow temporary organization membership by DNG to become an important option to serve the purpose.
- Meeting rescheduling constrained prompt decision-making and implementation as project implementation conveniently required the availability of all cluster members at a time.
- During the implementation phase coincidence of government anxieties over suspicious feelings on NGOs' activities over widespread campaigns against homosexuality. In this regard, government authorities were a little bit skeptical of all programs on youth and adolescent rights. Response and decisions by school heads somehow took a little while to implement power analysis for school girls. However, long-term relationships between government officials including Headmasters brought a panacea for granting intervention consent.
- Cluster meetings had on some occasions experienced inconsistent attendance due to overriding individual commitments and priorities.

3. What lessons have you learned from the challenges you faced as a cluster? What are some of the best practices learned in the period under review?

During the six-month planning and learning period, the cluster has observed the following lessons learned

- Effective involvement of local government authorities where consent was sought and obtained became paramount to ensure strengthened local community support for intended results.
- Strong partner relations and commitments have led to a compliment knowledge base and experience, moreover, there was joint coordination from partners other than the lead organization. Communications were made beyond official channels such as mobile phones and group WhatsApp calls even outside of working hours.
- Improved transparency among cluster partners throughout the project cycle
- Experience has shown that it could be worthwhile for cluster members to set aside one day for report writing before proceeding to another day of fieldwork during power analysis exercises. This could help to reduce the workload of analyzing bulk documents at the end In terms of best practices, the report highlights a few elements as observed.
- Adoption of facilitative approaches of downscaling ‘wearing shoes of adolescent girls’ during power analysis engagement activities stimulated improvement in project performance as such girls and facilitators were both assimilated and adapted to the process. Thus, girls felt confident to articulate and share their stories and experiences during power analysis exercises.
- Moreover, the subgrouping of girls into 6 to 7 with similar social status (like motherhood categories) and age groups became an essential element that stimulated vibrancy among girls to share private life stories without horror.

4. What recommendations does the cluster have in regard to;

- *Cluster partnership relationship*
- *Planning and implementation of the project*
- *Financial management*

• *Cluster partnership relationship*

In terms of the partnership, the cluster recommends the following

- **Capacity-building:** Capacity-building on key elements of team building and networking training component is conceived as imperative to cluster members just at the outset of program implementation. Its impact in building strong relationships would likely be crucial from the beginning of project implementation. In a nutshell, cluster partnerships require effective communication, practical assessments of

partners' capacity, flexibility, capacity-building workshops, grant accessibility, and regular monitoring and evaluation to be successful.

- **Planning and implementation of the project**

The cluster experience in project planning and implementation has demonstrated impressive innovations in planning on flexibilities to align with the realities on the ground. For example, the timeframe for adolescent power analysis was adjusted to pave way for time efficiency. The cluster partner's tolerance is vital to accommodate universal activity scheduling for project implementation. In some occasions, prompt implementation of project activities appeared to be constrained by the emergency of individual commitment or coincidence of work plans among partner organizations. Flexibility in the work plan was considered a key factor to allow deviation without significant detriment to the project plan.

- **Financial management**

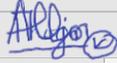
The cluster approach has provided a unique experience in managing finance. The approach is credited in terms of improving cluster transparency joint accountability as well as trust mutual ownership and management confidence. However, in some ways, the approach may attract unnecessary intricacies such as overdue payments on emergency cases especially when other signatory partners are extremely away from offices. Flexibility in borrowing from another project account might be inevitable and the likelihood of auditing queries will be apparent.

SECTION B – Project Financial Report

Please complete *Project Financial Report in Excel* and submit it at the same time as this form.

Other attachments

- Situational analysis report or needs assessment report

Full name of the person completing this report:	Nhojo Allan Kushoka		
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Signature			
Date report submitted: (dd/mon/yy)	14	MARCH	2023

