



REPORT ON THE FOUNDER TOUR 2022 MEETING:

1.1 ACTIVITY ONE: 25TH APRIL 2022.

In attendance:

- **Valeria Santoro - Director/Founder Lightup Impact**
- **Eeva Makinen - Co-Founder Lightup Impact**
- **Jennifer Muganda - Communications and PR Manager**
- **Nancy Ayoma (Eddy) - E.D/Co-Founder CHADALA**
- **Grace Akumu - Founder/Project Officer CHADALA**

AGENDA:

1. Introduction of the Founders and Lightup Impact Team:

A detailed introduction was done, where all the founders and leaders in the space got a few minutes to introduce themselves and their relevant work areas.

2. Introduction of CHADALA:

As an organization, we are deeply humbled to be part of the wonderful and impactful Founder Tour 2022 by Lightup Community. CHADALA is a registered LBQ women-led organization that seeks to develop and help improve the health and livelihood of marginalized young women and girls in the rural areas of Nyanza Kenya, through the facilitation of Arts, Socio-economic Activities, Advocacy, Networking, and Partnerships.

3. Founder Tour Activities:

After a lengthy deliberation with the team, it was jointly agreed that with the able donation received from Lightup Impact Community of Ksh 60,000, we were to hold 3 activities in line with our objectives and ongoing campaign that aims at putting up the **FIRST** safe house in Nyanza, Kenya that will be a second home to marginalized young women and girls in their diversity who are victims of human rights violation.

1.2 ACTIVITY TWO: 28th APRIL 2022.

In attendance:

- **Team Lightup Impact**
- **Team CHADALA**
- **15 Rights Holders**

AGENDA:

1. Consultation meeting with 15 young LBQ Women:

We held a consultative meeting with young LBQ women from rural and slum dwellings of Nyanza Kenya (Usoma, Dunga, Nanga, Nyalenda, Kaloleni, and Obunga), where security threats and risks were raised targeting the marginalized young women due to their actual or perceived sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI). It was noted with concern that very little support has been channeled to benefit the vulnerable young women who are victims of human rights violations, which has led to severe mental health conditions, drug substance abuse, and addiction. Most of the young women have suffered rejection from family and friends which has rendered many of them homeless and prone to further security risks and threats. It was unanimously agreed that a further discussion to find possible solutions to the looming threats should be held in preparation for the forthcoming General Elections.

2. Launch of CHADALA Dance Crew:

After the lengthy and very emotional talk session, CHADALA launched her much-awaited Dance crew in solidarity with **#JusticeForSheila** and **#EndViolenceStigmaAndDiscriminationAgainstLBQWomen**. As a marginalized gender group, we will be using ART as a tool for advocacy to help amplify our voices of inclusion and equality as well as physical and mental health. Our dance crew will have at least 10 dancers with our end goal being to realize an informative dance video fortnightly, where the dancers will use their dancing skills to advocate for mental health equity, recognition, and inclusion of LBQ women in spaces, without subjecting us to violence, stigma, and discrimination. The participants had a chance to interact and unwind after an intense and very emotional session. The group held a candle-lighting session in honor of one of our own who was brutally murdered and her assailants still at large. Our voices and cries remain unheard. We demand justice for all the survivors and victims of violence targeting sexual minority women.

3. Interviews:

After all the activities of the day were done, a few participants volunteered to be interviewed, this was done to shed more light on the Founder Tour and future activities.

1.3 ACTIVITY THREE:

AGENDA:

1. Lightup Impact Community- Directors Meeting.

Organizations in attendance:

- Winam Chanua Dada CBO (CHADALA)
- Working under the Rainbow Kenya (WUTR)
- Lake Region Womxn Health and Rights (LAWHER)
- Peperusha Binti
- KISLEB
- Kisumu Social Inclusion

Six CSOs working with marginalized young women and girls in their diversity came together to have an intense brainstorming session on how best we would partner and work towards a common goal. Common challenges were raised as to why most of the CSOs were unable to implement their planned programs/activities.

Challenges:

1. Lack of donor funding.

Donor funding is limited and very few organizations in Western Kenya have received grants to help advance the course of LGBTIQ persons in the region. Grassroots organisations are denied the opportunity to grow as they are deemed unfit to operate and cannot handle funds. Gatekeeping by the already established organisations has also led to the dormancy of grassroots organizations, which continue to play a major role in community empowerment and development.

2. Lack of capacity and resources.

3. Self interest.

This has led to the downfall of many organisations as embezzlement of funds for self-interest has been recorded for years, with several influential organisations closing doors due to fraud cases. Some of the leaders have been accused of

using funds to benefit their own needs without taking care of their rights holders whom they resource mobilize for.

4. Fear of interdiction and deregistration.

Some leaders were living in fear of losing their source of livelihood upon detection of running a parallel program/organization. Most of the teachers in the space said they risked being interdicted at the slight suspicion of being an LGBTIQ person.

5. Negative profiling for working with LBQ Women:

Allies of the LGBTIQ+ family face stigma and discrimination for associating with the marginalized community. This led to negative profiling with the allies being targets of violence.

Possible Solutions:

1. Advocate and create more awareness:

There was a need to create more awareness of the existence and challenges that sexual gender minority groups continue to face that continue to expose us to violence, stigma, and discrimination. The need for sensitization of duty bearers (police and health care providers) was encouraged though there was the concern of possible transfers during the election period.

2. Focus on partnerships:

All the organizations in attendance agreed on partnerships to help advance the course of marginalized young women and girls in our various areas of operation. Together we agreed to be involved in policy reviews, public participation, and budgeting to help strengthen our organizational operations.

1.4 ACTIVITY FOUR:

LIQUID HAND SOAP MAKING:

Due to unavoidable circumstances, we still have not been able to hold our soap-making activity with the adolescent mothers as we are required to get formal communication from the area Chief, allowing us to empower the young girls. Since it was a Saturday and a non-working day for government offices in Kenya, we will follow up on the matter on Monday. Once we get the formal communication allowing us to work with the young mothers we will communicate.

1.5 DADA EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM (PHASE ONE)/MENSTRUAL HYGIENE

MANAGEMENT DAY:

Date:28th May 2022

Participants: 10 Teenage mothers

Agenda:

1. LIQUID HAND SOAP MAKING PROGRAM.

With the current rising cost of living and the high rate of unemployment young women face, we saw the importance of introducing a self-development program for sustainability purposes, where we trained 10 teenage mothers on how to make liquid hand soap.

The young mothers were trained on how to make the product with the aim of selling to the local community in order to earn a living, as most of the young mothers come from very vulnerable backgrounds, some single parents were raised by single mothers, while others are married but facing serious financial constraints and need support to be able to support their very young families. These have sadly exposed vulnerable young women to domestic violence and abuse, with many afraid to speak of their challenges openly.

After the training, each of the young mums was given enough chemicals to produce 20 litres of soap and advised on which locations to market/sell their products. As an organisation we appreciate #TeamLightup for making this possible through your kind donation. Together let's keep on "supporting a Dada".

MENSTRUAL HYGIENE MANAGEMENT DAY CELEBRATION:

Period poverty is a major challenge affecting young women and girls in their diversity in rural Nyanza and her informal settlements as evident from the discussion we had with our rights holders, the teen mothers. Accessing menstrual hygiene products is a problem as the dignity products available are costly and in many instances, vulnerable young women are forced to use clothes, rags, or cotton wool which is equally not hygienic and may cause infections. Some of the young women have sadly been forced to exchange sex for sanitary towels one thing that brings a lot of shame and sadness to their faces. We humbly appeal for support with dignity kits to be able to support the young mothers fully with sanitary towels and also to save them from the vice of having to trade their bodies for sanitary towels.

The young women were very pleased with their tokens and thanked the sponsors for their kind donation as the sanitary towels given were enough to last a period of two months as we resource mobilize to purchase more. The idea of having a sanitary dispenser was welcomed by the rights holders as they will now have access to sanitary towels whenever in need.

Conclusion:

As an organisation we pride ourselves on being part of the community. We appreciate the time and resources spent on us as all these have shaped us positively, and we are looking forward to a great partnership. We acknowledge the great mentorship role you have played and do wish the entire team well in their future endeavors.

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Asanteni sana na Mungu azidi kuwabariki(Thank you so much and may God keep on blessing you all)