

GOALS

The project will develop a COVID-19 Vertically Integrated Social Accountability and Advocacy Framework (COVISAF) to enable the documentation of reliable, contextually-grounded local data analysis and rapid feedback to communities and authorities to inform policies and practices to mitigate the social and economic impacts of COVID-19.

COVISAF will complement formal IGAD Member States' oversight mechanisms of implementing Regional Response Strategy for COVID-19 pandemic.

Synergy will be sought using multi-level independent policy monitoring and advocacy whereby monitoring will inform advocacy whereas advocacy will inform monitoring. Both formal (government) accountability and informal (youth-led community) accountability mechanisms will complement each other in a mutually reinforcing manner.

OBJECTIVES

To carry out a comprehensive gender analysis of the current social mobilization of youth in informing, co-designing and supporting emergency preparedness and response, capacity, key gaps and support needs.

To build the capacity of male and female Youth Volunteers for Behaviour Change (YOV4BC) in emergency preparedness, response (disaster risk reduction and management) and building resilience to impacts of COVID-19 so that they are well informed, resourced and educated about COVID-19 and its prevention measures.

To partner with the youth to take action within their communities through developing and institutionalizing a standardized and harmonized COVID-19 Vertically Integrated Social Accountability and Advocacy Framework for monitoring the IGAD Regional Response Strategy (IRRS) for COVID-19 Pandemic in Kenya, Uganda and Ethiopia.

To investigate and track gender differentiated sectoral socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 on youth and their communities and document community perceptions and response strategies

To facilitate meaningful policy engagement between male and female youth and policy makers through enhanced national, sub-national and regional knowledge sharing platforms.



COYOQA

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Impact, Response and Protection Measures in the IGAD Region**

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Development of socially-accountable policy frameworks which promote youth inclusion, resilience and gender-responsive service delivery to mitigate the impact of COVID-19,

Strengthened engagement of citizens in efforts to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19, which include development of citizen-led performance monitoring frameworks

Improved research uptake and incorporation of evidence-based learning, which is reflected in both citizen and government usage of research evidence to improve community response to impacts of COVID-19 and to build resilience;

Demonstrable understanding and implementation of the COVID-19 Vertically Integrated Social Accountability and Advocacy Framework (COVISAF) by local, national and regional stakeholders to enhance social accountability in the efforts to mitigate the impact of COVID-19;

Strengthened citizen knowledge on their rights to engage with public health service delivery policies and processes; and

Creation of local and national communities of practice created to provide on-going support to youth-led accountability Facilitators (YOHEV).

CONSORTIUM

The project is led by the Organisation for Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa (OSSREA) and supported by the Consortium based in 3 countries. Consortium members comprise of OSSREA (the lead organization, based in Ethiopia); the Christian Relief and Development Association (CCRDA)-based in Ethiopia; Makerere University in Uganda, and a regional bloc of 8-member states, i.e. the IGAD Conflict Early Warning and Response Mechanism (based in Addis Ababa).

BACKGROUND

The COYOQA project seeks to generate evidence about how youth, despite the exclusionary practices, can be at the forefront of action and policy responses to respond to, mitigate and address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The project seeks to collate and analyze information through virtual and physical means on how young people are being affected, responding and coping to COVID-19. The study aims to gain deeper and more nuanced insights on the nature, shape and strategies of youth participation in COVID-19 responses in the three IGAD member countries (Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda).

The project will analyze how youth (young women and young men) are transforming the public health and socio-economic landscape created by COVID-19 by advocating for transparent and accountable responses to COVID-19. Focusing on Kenya, Ethiopia and Uganda, the project will seek to bridge the divide between excluded youth and their governments, and coordinate response using a data-driven, evidence-based approach. It will improve governance mechanisms by promoting meaningful youth engagement in social accountability and advocacy of the COVID-19 pandemic thus promote four pillars of SA (transparency, participation, response and monitoring) and therefore contribute to build trust between the citizens and local governments when it comes to decision making.

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