



**ORAP: Organisation of Rural Associations for Progress**

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## ORAP Youth Development Project: Promoting Youth Development Through The Arts

**Background:** Since 2013 ORAP has been working on youth development through sports development. Partnering with the US-Africa Children's Fellowship (USACF), we received two donations of soccer balls from One World Play Project, the Chevrolet Foundation ([www.oneworldplayproject.com](http://www.oneworldplayproject.com)). This led us to plan and host an annual soccer tournament, bringing together over 100 schools across 10 districts to compete for the opportunity to be the regional youth soccer champions at the ORAP Zenzele Chevrolet Cup. The Cup presented youths with an opportunity to interact with each other, sharing stories of their experiences, their challenges, and the ways they are dealing with them. The resounding support received from students and communities led us to explore further how we could work with youths more effectively.

**ORAP Youth Dialogue:** In the first quarter of 2016 we held a Youth Dialogue Event, bringing together 60 youths from 4 rural and 2 urban districts. This learning event gave us great insight into the ways that young people think about their place in society, as well as their current and future prospects. Two of the most pressing issues raised were lack of access to information and poor employment prospects. The participants told us that they were inspired by the soccer tournament, but that we should also find ways to engage those without an interest in sports, for example through the arts.

**Youth and the Arts:** Many young people get a taste of the arts during their school days through acting in plays, singing in choirs, and taking visual arts classes as part of the curriculum. After school they have no opportunity to keep participating, and they have seen other people earning a living through their talents, and they were keen to explore this. Youths also identified the arts as a way to express themselves and to discuss their life experiences. They hoped that it would be a platform for their needs to be heard by their communities, and that talking about issues would help them learn to deal with them appropriately. Many youths are engaging in risky coping behaviours, such as drinking, drugs, transactional sex, illegal migration, and many others.

**The Proposed Project:** The Youth Arts & Skills Workshops Project will bring together 100 young people, 30 boys and 70 girls (this is because the soccer project engages more boys than girls, so we want the Arts project to focus on girls, without excluding boys). They will be provided information on the various opportunities that are available in the Arts sector, and given specific training into how they can generate income from participating in them. Some areas that have been identified already include:

- Visual arts: drawing, painting, beadwork, sculpting, pottery, print, graphic design, etc.
- Performing arts: singing, musical instruments, drama, acting, etc.
- Creative arts: textiles and design, etc.
- Social entrepreneurship: meeting needs identified in the community, to generate a sustainable income.

Within all these disciplines there are different opportunities such as providing materials and equipment, servicing equipment, administration, event coordination, catering, management, and many others.

**Budget:** The project costs will be determined according to available funds in the following way:

| Item   | Description   | Cost      |
|--|---|-----------|
| Training (per participant, minimum 5 people) | Facilitation fees (consultants), Stationery and venue costs, Transport for the participants | US\$10    |
| Training                                     | 100 participants  | US\$1,000 |
| Income generating activities                 | Project start up inputs for a group of 5 youths   | US\$500   |

**Project Sustainability:** Sustainability is an important part of ORAP's work, as it is critical to give donors good value for their money. The project will have a mentorship aspect, teaching the first group to be guides and advisors for future groups that we train. We have learnt that youths respond best to advice and guidance from other youths so we know this will work. They will all still have access to the facilitators and to the ORAP Team.

**Project Timeline:** The project will run as soon as adequate funding is raised. We anticipate continuing it throughout 2017, starting in January.

### Project Contact Details:

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