



Call for Expressions of Interest - YALA Project Cohort 2

Introduction

While significant progress has been made towards creating more youth-friendly access to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) information and services across the East and Southern Africa (ESA) region, more needs to be done to ensure that young people can make informed decisions about their sexual and reproductive health.

Young people across ESA are currently facing a myriad of SRHR challenges including unplanned pregnancy, unsafe abortion, girls dropping out of school, early / forced marriages, female genital mutilation (FGM), sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs). Many ESA countries in particular have some of the highest rates of unplanned pregnancy, HIV, FGM and SGBV among young people worldwide.

This three-year project, led by [Theatre for a Change \(TfaC\)](#) in Malawi, will aim to increase access to adolescent and youth-friendly SRHR information and services in 10 countries across ESA by working with partner NGOs/CBOs and youth leaders to implement a range of exciting initiatives using the TfaC methodology for SRHR advocacy and social / behavioural change.

About the Opportunity

We are looking to develop new strategic implementing partnerships with SRHR organisations in 10 countries across ESA who are interested in learning and using the TfaC approach for SRHR advocacy and social change in their work.

- The first application window (July 2024) was for cohort 1 partners in [Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda](#).
- The second application window (January 2025) is for cohort 2 partners in [Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe](#).

Partners will be selected from an open application process in all 10 countries. TfaC will select one or two partners per country.

Once selected, each partner will be asked to select two or four young leaders affiliated with their organisation to come to Malawi and receive two weeks of intensive methodology training from the TfaC team at TfaC's new training facility called YALA – the Young African Leaders Academy.

Once the young leaders have completed this training, they will return to their home organisations / networks and implement this training under the supervision of the partners, and with TfaC's remote support.



Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible to serve as a YALA Cohort 2 partner, applicants must meet all of the following criteria:

1. Must be a registered NGO / CBO in one of the following countries:
 - i. Botswana
 - ii. Namibia
 - iii. South Africa
 - iv. Zambia
 - v. Zimbabwe
2. Must have a strong organisational focus on SRHR, particularly among adolescents and youth
3. Must have a clear vision for how they will use TfaC's training / methodology to support their SRHR advocacy work
4. Must have SRHR advocacy campaigns / activities already in progress and/or starting up in the next few years, with funding for this advocacy work already confirmed
5. Must have an established and active youth volunteer network from which the youth leaders will come
6. Must have the ability to communicate in English both verbal and written
7. Must have the ability to commit to the full project implementation period (mid 2025 – early 2027)

Who Should Apply

This is primarily a training/implementation partnership project designed to support NGOs / CBOs who are already engaged in SRHR advocacy work at the community level. Roughly speaking, TfaC will be responsible for the 'training' component and partners will be responsible for the 'implementing' component of the partnership.

The project will fund all costs associated with training the young leaders from partner organisations – this includes expenses like flights to Malawi, room and board, training materials, local transport etc. The project will also provide monthly stipends for the young leaders during the period that they will be implementing activities in their communities using TfaC's methodology.



The project cannot fund in-country activities so it is important that applicants already have funding confirmed for advocacy work in-country that could be complimented and strengthened by this training. This will be a key factor that will be considered when selecting Cohort 2 partners. TfaC estimates that partners will need anywhere from \$500-\$2,500 (USD) per month to successfully implement activities using the TfaC methodology depending on their location. The project period for Cohort 2 partners is roughly 15 months (September 2025-November 2026).

Application Timeframe

The partner selection process involves 3 stages:

The 1st stage application window will open on 15th January and close on 3rd February 2025.

We anticipate shortlisting around 40 organisations, who will be invited to submit a more detailed 2nd stage application in late February 2025.

From there, around 10 organisations will be shortlisted for 3rd stage interviews, which will happen in early/mid April 2025.

Subgrant agreements will be issued in late April with preparations happening in May, June and July for the young leader training in Malawi in August. In-country activity implementation to begin in September 2025.

How to Apply

If your organisation meets all eligibility criteria listed on page 2, then we invite you to submit your expression of interest clicking on the link below:

[Expression of Interest Form – YALA Project Cohort 2](#)

Application deadline: Monday 3rd February 2025, 18:00 CAT

If you have any questions about this opportunity that you would like to discuss with a TfaC member of staff, please email info@tfacafrika.com with subject heading **TfaC Partner Application Inquiry** and we will do our best to reply as soon as possible.

We commit to acknowledging receipt of all applications; however, we will only take forward conversations with shortlisted applicants, and unfortunately do not have the capacity to give feedback to individual applicants on the quality of their applications.

Thank you for your understanding and for your interest in working with us!