



Levelling the Field Report March 2018

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Summary

This report covers the period March 17 – March 18.

In January 2017 Comic Relief and the Scottish Government formed a partnership to launch Levelling the Field; an initiative using the power of sport to enable and inspire women and girls to reach their full potential. The intention of the initiative was to support projects using sport to contribute to Sustainable Development Goal 5 – to achieve gender equality and empower women and girls – in Malawi, Zambia and Rwanda. It is a £1.8 million initiative funded by Comic Relief and the Scottish Government, with joint funding available for work in Malawi, Zambia and Rwanda which are partner countries for the Scottish Government's International Development Fund in Sub-Saharan Africa. £400,000 of Comic Relief funding was also made available for work in Colombia and India.

Aims and objectives

Levelling the Field looks for creative solutions which influence, motivate, and inspire women and girls to break down the barriers that prevent them reaching their full potential.

All proposals had to work towards the overall outcome of inspiring women and girls to reach their full potential, in addition to working towards a minimum of one of the following outcomes:

- Reduce gender stereotypes that have a negative impact on women and girls
- Increase social inclusion of women and girls
- Increase opportunities for women and girls to access education, employment and training
- Improve the leadership skills of women and girls
- Tackle violence against women and girls; enabling women and girls to live free from harm, and with access to crucial support. This final approach aligns with 'Equally Safe', Scotland's strategy for preventing and eradicating violence against women and girls domestically.

Process

Levelling the Field launched on Comic Relief's website on 5th January 2017 with an open call for funding proposals. The deadline for applications was 16th March 2017. We received 68 applications, of which eight were shortlisted for assessment (three in Zambia, two in Colombia, and three in India). Following in country assessments we made two grants under joint funding in Zambia and one in Colombia funded by Comic Relief.

Unfortunately, as the small number of organisations both shortlisted for assessment and subsequently offered grants indicates, the overall quality of the applications we received was quite poor. As a result, we decided to then carry out proactive grant making. This included Comic Relief staff delivering an in-country scoping visit to Rwanda in August 2017, where Comic Relief staff met with 16 organisations locally based organisations, all who had the potential to meet the aims and objectives of Levelling the Field. Comic Relief delivered a one day workshop for the group, covering issues such as using Sport for Change, how to effectively work with women and girls, and how to strengthen grant applications. They also met individually with each of the



organisations in order to better understand the context in which the organisations are working, and discuss potential project proposals on a one-to-one basis. As a result of this trip, six organisations were then invited to apply for a grant for Levelling the Field, with five being awarded funding by Comic Relief Trustees. The scoping and proactive grant making in Malawi and Zambia has been desk-based – this resulted in three organisations being invited to apply for work in Malawi, and one in Zambia (all of which have been funded, with Women Win awaiting approval).

Current Position

We have now awarded grants to ten organisations under Levelling the Field for Rwanda, Zambia and Malawi, and one is going to Comic Relief Trustees for approval at the end of March.

Zambia

ActionAid Zambia – funded July 2017

Working in 3 districts of Zambia, this project will challenge the existing social norms and gender inequality that perpetuates Violence Against Women and Girls. It will support 3,000 of the most vulnerable girls and young women, at risk or survivors of violence, to realise their right to a violence-free life, and opportunities for participation and leadership in schools and communities. Football will be used as an integral part of the programme, to enhance life skills and creatively engage with girls.

YCare International – funded July 2017

This project will increase social inclusion of young women who have dropped out of school, and ensure healthy relationships are understood and promoted in Kalingalinga slum, Lusaka. Via Karate, 200 young people (160 girls and 40 boys aged 15-19) will have improved skills to prepare them for economic opportunities, and contribute to and practice respectful relationships.

Women Win – pending Trustees (28th March 2018)

Playing It Forward seeks to transform the lives of adolescent girls (AG) and young women (YW) in Zambia, through sport and life-skills training. Its three-year plan is to provide economic empowerment to a group of 150 young women and girls who have completed previous training, as well as bringing in a further 1200 girls as new joiners for the Goal programme. To begin, a local market analysis of openings for girls in the labour market and businesses will inform and lead to group teaching, individual mentoring and support in finding work and internships in sports or other sectors. Some girls will also be helped to set up their own small businesses with start-up grants and seed funding.

Malawi

British Council – approved November 2017



High levels of poverty, poor housing conditions and lack of access to services in Likuni and Mtandire, peri-urban settlements of Malawi's capital city, significantly hamper the healthy development of young people. Gender inequality means girls in particular are at risk of early child marriage and sexual violence. This project will provide safe spaces for 1170 young people (60% of them girls) aged between 7 and 20 years to learn about healthy relationships and behaviours, to gain life skills and to advocate for their rights through the delivery of a sport for development curriculum. They will be better able to access SRH services and communities will be more aware of issues they face.

United Purpose – approved November 2017

This proposal will implement a netball-based education programme for 480 girls aged 10-18 living in Dedza district in Malawi, who are identified as disenfranchised. Girls will be inspired to reach their full potential and be able to influence their own and their peers' lives. Boys, families and communities will benefit from mixed-gender community tournaments. The project will build the capacity of United Purpose Malawi in using Sport as a tool for social Change, enabling it to transfer learning in Sport for Change to its partners in Malawi and the wider sector.

TackleAfrica – approved January 2018

Rates of teenage pregnancy and early marriage are very high in Malawi and account for a quarter of all school drop-outs amongst girls. This project will use football coaching to provide 1200 teenage mothers and 1200 adolescent girls in Mangochi and Mchinji, the two districts with the highest prevalence of teenage pregnancy in the country, with the family planning knowledge, services and skills to guard against unplanned pregnancy and sexual/reproductive health rights issues. As a result, they will be better able to complete their education, remain healthy and reach their full potential. Adolescent boys and young men in the community will also display more positive attitudes towards women.

Rwanda

Shooting Touch – approved January 2018

Shooting Touch are proposing to deliver basketball health sessions that incorporate an employability module to drive gender equity, reduce stigmas, and increase employment. Existing basketball for health work will be expanded to include modalities specifically for women aimed at driving economic empowerment through employment and self-employment in their communities.

Care Rwanda – approved January 2018

Although attitudes have shifted greatly since the 1994 genocide, the average adolescent girl in Rwanda faces discrimination and disempowerment, which can lead to physical and sexual based violence. Sport will be used as a hook to engage with adolescent girls and boys, alongside a broader programme to educate them on the harmful results of gender stereotyping, sexual and gender based violence, and negative behaviours/socio-cultural practices on adolescent girls' lives. Added to which girls (and some boys too) will be trained



as sports leaders and youth advocates to empower them to speak out on the harmful social practices, and to promote a positive change in attitudes amongst their peers.

Kids Play Rwanda – approved January 2018

Kids Play Rwanda (KPR) will improve gender equity in rural Rwanda through the delivery of 'Let's Play Fair' (LPF), their sport-based education program to reduce negative gender stereotypes, improve the leadership skills of girls and women, and shift the community toward more gender equitable beliefs and behaviours. 75 females aged 7-19 and 75 males aged 7-19 will benefit from the programme, with 50 of the girls aged 13 - 19 taking part in their 'All Girls United' pilot project. 13 local Coaches will be trained and supported to deliver the curriculum. Local communities will be engaged through community days.

Komera Project – approved January 2018

Komera will work in Kayonza District in the Eastern province of rural Rwanda addressing the most pressing issues facing adolescent girls. They will use a football based curriculum to challenge gender norms in primary schools, and use community runs to engage and bring local people together to challenge the gender stereotypes that exist around females engaging in sport; alongside messaging around gender based violence and sexual and reproductive health. They will provide direct support to the most vulnerable and marginalised teen mothers through a community based mentorship program.

Rwanda Cricket Stadium Foundation – approved January 2018

The Rwandan Cricket Stadium Foundation (RCSF) will partner with Resonate to unlock the leadership skills of low-income young women in Gahanga. Using the stadium as the venue, the organisations will work together to deliver a leadership development programme that combines cricket with Resonate's workshops.

The two grants that were awarded in July 2017 were delayed in getting their projects underway, while the others were only recently approved. The first six month reports for YCare International and Action Aid Zambia are expected to be received in the next month.

In February 2018 the Scottish Government Minister for International Development was visiting Kigali, Zambia, so Comic Re arranged for him to meet with the two projects while there. At the end of January [redacted], the Zambia Development Manager at the Scottish Government met with Action Aid and their Grassroots Soccer to discuss the visit. Due to an outbreak of Cholera across Zambia, Judith was unable to visit the project on that occasion but workers from the project visited her at the hotel. We then connected Action Aid with YCare (and their partners YMCA Zambia and YWCA Zambia) so they could coordinate a visit for the Minister on Saturday 10th February. The visit was a great success and it was fantastic to see two of our funded projects working together.

Challenges and Learning

It quickly became clear that there is a less well developed Sport for Change sector in the three countries we were targeting, and this was reflected in the lower quality of applications received. We also found organisations tended to either be delivering sport or working with women and girls well, they struggled to do both.



Carrying out work in-country proved incredibly valuable and has resulted in us making five strong grants in Rwanda. This has shown the value in spending additional time in-country to scope, capacity build, visit projects and increase the understanding of the context.

We found that projects really benefit from collaborating. In Rwanda the projects said that meeting and working together was really helpful, while in Malawi, the three projects have been connected – they have already met and are coming up with a plan on how they can share learning and resources.

It was clear that the grants in Rwanda need additional support, and we will continue to provide this starting with an in-country start-up workshop, which will include specialist technical support around gender and sport.

The proactive process has led to a significantly longer grant making period, and we're grateful to Scottish Government's flexibility and coordination on this. We have one grant left to award for work in Malawi.

With regards to the work Comic Relief was undertaking in addition to the 3 joint countries, we struggled to identify strong projects in India and Colombia. As a consequence we have made one grant in Colombia of £150,000, however we have underspent £250,000 (of the ring-fenced £400,000). We have made the decision to carry over this underspend into Comic Relief's wider Sport for Change work.

Next steps

In April 2018 Comic Relief will be delivering in-country capacity building workshops alongside a Consultant in Kigali, with all five recently funded organisations in Rwanda along with the recently awarded grant to Tackle Africa for work in Malawi attending. The workshops are being delivered in response to the panel that reviewed the Rwanda proposals highlighting the need to provide additional support to the organisations in certain areas. The workshops will focus on developing a Theory of Change; support with the start-up aspects of the grant; MEL (monitoring, evaluation and learning) along with workshops focusing on deepening the projects' Sport for Change approach; and ensuring the gender work has been thought out and developed, including challenging assumptions around Gender Based Violence. We will report back to the Scottish Government on the progress made at these workshops in May.

Further planned outputs for the following year:

- We will continue to look at how we are able to further develop opportunities for collaboration between grant holders in all three countries.

- Towards the end of this year we will start to map out monitoring and evaluation visits to projects, and where possible will co-ordinate with The Scottish Government to increase value for money

- We will allocate the final remaining grant money for a project in Malawi - – we have already started to carry out remote scoping for this. As agreed with The Scottish Government, due to the costs relating to the Rwanda capacity building trip, the final grant may be slightly lower than £130,000 as per the below.



We hope to increase our profiling of the Levelling the Field Grants, making use of Comic Relief's communications expertise

Finance Reporting March 17 – March 18

Our expenditure for year one towards the costs of managing this project is £22,043. The overall management expenditure for this project is £108,000.

Grants Committed

Organisation	Amount approved (£)	Date Committed
Y Care International	140,000	Jul-17
ActionAid Zambia	150,000	Jul-17
United Purpose	149,933	Nov-17
The British Council	149,372	Nov-17
Kids Play Rwanda	149,665	Jan-18
Shooting Touch	149,196	Jan-18
Komera	149,533	Jan-18
TackleAfrica	149,896	Jan-18
CARE International UK	149,583	Jan-18
The Rwandan Cricket Stadium Foundation (RCSF)	75,000	Jan-18
Women Win	149,150	pending
Grant uncommitted (Malawi)	130,672	
Totals:	1,692,000	