

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTABILITY PANEL
Independent Accountability Report 2017
Call for Evidence & Contributions

1) Key Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Protection of adolescents – Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) Participatory Monitoring and Prevention b) Sexual and Reproductive Health – Awareness-Raising and Dissemination of Information c) Peace-building - Within the community and larger
2) Groups of Focus	<p>Adolescents, both Female and Male from the age group of 12-17 years comprise the Youth Clubs.</p> <p>Each of the 3 health zone has 12 groups with 24 members in each Youth Club. There are 12 girls and 12 boys who join the club on a voluntary basis, guided by five adult facilitators for each group. The total number of members currently enrolled is 864 adolescents. Most of the adolescents stay consistent in their participation and finally leave the club when they have crossed 17 years of age, and are replaced by new younger, incoming members.</p>
3) Geographic Coverage	<p>Health Centres in Katana, Mwenga, Kitutu - all in the South Kivu Province, Democratic Republic of Congo</p>
4) Nature of evidence submitted (Report, external evaluation, research, statistical data, anecdotal account of a promising experience)	<p>Information used in this report was collected in consultation with the coordinator of the Ushindi Project in DRC, Pascal MUSARAZA MUKANIRE.</p> <p>For further information on evaluation reports, Save the Children in the Democratic Republic of Congo may be contacted, as partners who have previously conducted the evaluations on this project.</p>
Time-Frame/ Year of findings submitted	<p>The Youth Clubs began in 2011 in Kitutu, Mwenga and Shabunda and the most recent clubs have commenced activities in October 2016 in Katana, all of them in the South Kivu Province.</p>
5) Description of highlights	<p>The Youth Clubs under Project Ushindi involve adolescents, both girls and boys in activities that directly affect them and their communities, to create a source of intervention that is participatory and emerges from the grassroots level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The Panzi model for responses to Sexual and Gender Based Violence works with four pillars- of providing medical care, psycho-social support, legal assistance and socio-economic reintegration to survivors of sexual and gender-based violence. Echoing this model, the youth clubs have created democratically elected sub-committees in schools which are acting as a focal points for monitoring Sexual and gender based violations in local education settings. They engage with advocates from legal clinics in understanding legal frameworks and referring their peers to the various medical and psycho-social services that are available to adolescents in their particular health zone. b) Information dissemination and advocacy on Sexual and Reproductive Health is also an important responsibility that the members of the youth club engage in. This is done through holding dialogue directly with the community through theatre sketches. These are composed and acted out by the members themselves to engage with the local population in discussion about sexual and reproductive health. c) The youth clubs follow a pattern of continuous participation where old members leave once they turn 17 and new members join from the age of 12 years onwards and the composition is adjusted every year. This system of rotation has lead to increased participation from adolescents in different zones and different age groups. The element of continuity where a number of members continue to be members through their entire

	<p>adolescence also makes it easier to influence behavioural change in attitudes and perceptions.</p>
6) Analysis	<p>Working with adolescents on issues of reproductive health and on issues of Sexual and Gender Based Violence has proved to be a favourable change. Since most of the children work along with the project as they are growing up, the youth clubs is proving to be of long-term impact and successful in targeting structural change. The youth leave these clubs having challenged their own conceptions of gender, with a better understanding of the various services available to their peer group and communities in relation to sexual and gender-based violence. Importantly, they leave these youth clubs as young individuals with an understanding of positive ways they can contribute to their societies.</p>
7) Lessons Learned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The youth club has proved effective in building leadership, ownership and resilience amongst adolescent population in the communities they have worked in and targeting issues which are most pertinent to them and their context. b) By bringing together adolescents from different genders and ages in a safe space for discussion and deliberation, the processes of planning and meetings of the clubs itself has led to change in mind-sets; for young boys and girls to interact with each other as equal members of a motivated group; to learn more about navigating opposing viewpoints and collaborating towards productive and realistic activities. c) Adolescents have proved to be very sensitive in identifying the challenges that their peer group face and ways in which those barriers can be overcome. Armed with a better understanding of the legal and political frameworks in place for responding to Sexual and Gender based Violence, they find themselves confident and persistent in their monitoring and advocacy activities.
8) Echelle et portée de l'intervention (le cas échéant) / Scale and Reach of Intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The activities and discussions in the youth clubs cover a broad range of areas including questions about positive masculinity, sex education including how the body's reproductive system works and understanding sexual relations. Discussions are also raised on social practices like early marriages, on the security situation and military presence in the zones the clubs and its members are operating in and how adolescents can contribute to peacebuilding and encourage their communities as well. b) In terms of reach, currently the programme has targeted adolescents, families and their communities along with formal structures such as schools. What the programme has successfully managed to do is establish linkages between different actors/ pillars which respond to sexual violence. Hence adolescents are not only able to understand better the multi-sectoral responses in dealing with SBGV, but also have managed to bring in their own perspective and involvement in these pillars. Not only does the composition of the group make it possible to reach a larger set of people, directly and indirectly, but is also allowing for change which is long-term and positive.
9) Recommendations/ Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) While the Youth Clubs have set up a mechanism to be integrated in the school environment, it is still something additional and voluntary that young people engage in. The members themselves have expressed that at times, it becomes difficult to justify their involvement to family members who would rather want them to dedicate their time to formal education. Hence, a recommendation is to try and make it a transversal element, which means that the clubs should be tried and supplement the formal education system, as out of classroom activities but still within the formal education framework.

	<p>b) Because this is a programme which is targeting long-term behaviour, implementation, monitoring and evaluation are long term processes which require consistent budgeting. So it is recommended that donors understand that projects working with adolescents, on sexual and reproductive health and gender norms, require gradual change and engagement and hence funding should be focused on the impact and effectiveness of the programme rather than just being determined by time periods.</p>
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This submission was co-jointly written by Pascal MUSARAZA MUKANIRE, Coordinator USHINDI Project, Panzi Foundation and Prerna Bhagi, Programmes Assistant, Panzi Foundation.