

Learnings and Tips

from FIT's Community of Practice



Inclusive development through community-based initiatives

The following insights are the result of a November 2022 FIT Community of Practice session where local partners CAP-Youth Empowerment Institute Kenya (CAP-YEI) and Làyidu-mètre discussed the solutions they are testing with Canadian SMOs Humber Institute of Technology & Advanced Learning (Humber) and Journalists for Human Rights (JHR) respectively.

- 1 Work within, rather than pushing against, local contexts**
JHR and their partner, Làyidu-mètre, sought local buy-in with media, government and CSOs while testing ways to prioritize sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR) on the public agenda in Mali.
- 2 Address gender equality as a community – engaging all genders**
To help address existing socio-cultural barriers Humber and their partner, CAP-YEI, pivoted to enlist men as champions of change.
- 3 Use creativity to address challenges and empower participants**
Through creative arts approaches, both Humber College in partnership with CAP-YEI and JHR in partnership with Làyidu-mètre engaged participants in livelihood and advocacy opportunities. These included content creation for social media highlight talents such as photography and performing arts (CAP-YEI), and slam poetry (Làyidu-mètre).
- 4 Vary testing approaches between regional contexts**
JHR and Làyidu-mètre considered differences in healthcare access between rural and urban contexts in Mali. Similarly, CAP-YEI noted differences between refugees' access to services in urban or rural Kenya.
- 5 Boost participants' growth and success through mentorship**
In Kenya, CAP-YEI and Humber helped strengthen refugees' entrepreneurship endeavours by connecting them with people who have worked within the digital space who could offer support.

“ Mothers and children, husbands and wives cannot be separated – they come together and are a community. When a country is struck by war, the people who are struck the most are women. ”

CAP-YEI Kenya

