**The YADEN and its Partners Change Story;**

#ithechange VOICE project was designed as an integrated intervention meaning the project addressed various aspects and pillars comprising Empowerment and Engagement of Youth in Conflict with the Law. This is premised on the fact that to sustainably support the Target group the project need to support the facilitating entities make the necessary positive changes that will equip and empower the entities best serve the target group. In this way the project thus monitors and evaluates positive changes beyond the primary target group as part of that assurance.

**Organisational Capacity Changes;** in this area, YADEN as the lead organisation further enhanced its organisational capacity. This is even more significant with the four un-official partners that the project worked with in Kampala, Arusha/Moshi, Mombasa and Kisumu. Pearl Development Initiative (PDI) from Uganda registered the most significant organisational capacity progress. This is indicated by the many Stakeholders and had confidence to work with them and the many invitations to participate in both state and non-state actors are evidence of this. Other organisation that has shown significant progress include Kishoka Youth Organisation in Mombasa who have been appointed by the Pollination project as the local funds disbursement agent for grassroots groups owing to their capacity to reach out to hard to target youths and their groups, the project has significantly contributed to this confidence. KASH in Kisumu and Twaweza Boys and Girls Club in Moshi have also registered progress as per the evaluation survey realised at the end of the project.

For YADEN #ithechange project has cemented our position as **a knowledge generation entity**. Before the project YADEN had realised that based on its intimate work at the grassroots it helps develop new knowledge but since it was not organised as a knowledge platform most of this knowledge was never harnessed. In this project YADEN was able to analyse this new knowledge and package it as a learning initiative. YADEN has been invited in many workshops to present various lessons as evidence to this new acknowledgement. YADEN was also awarded a Gold certification by VIWANGO Organisational Capacity Group which is one of the most sort after certifications respected by many donors. #ithechange among other of our programming contributed to this since some of the documents surveyed and evaluated included the project documents.

Using the Continuous Inclusive Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation (CIP-M&E) System, the project Changes were tracked under four key Impact/Change areas.

**Identity Strengthening;** This involves Changes in Attitude and Behaviour, the project invested heavily on Attitude and behaviour changes, especially since the pre-project survey showed the change in attitude and behaviour, summarised in this project as Identity Strengthening was the most significant impact areas in terms of ensuring empowerment and engagement of youth in conflict with the law. Based on final evaluation this was one of the changes where the most significant changes were recorded among the 104 target group participants. Their confidence, self-acceptance, self-esteem and articulation highly improved. Actually as evidenced in activities such as ‘the Change my Voice has Made’ videos are an evidence of this progress.

**Skills and Knowledge;** the target group members gained new knowledge and skills. This included skills in enterprise development and various vocational skills such as beauty and health among others. The participants also gained new knowledge for example on how the judicial system work, the penal code among other vital knowledge without which their and those of their peers engagement would be difficult. Being a learning project the project also targeted Stakeholder representatives as the primary learners and as the evaluation profiles contained in the Learning platform shares, they changed their perceptions based on new knowledge about youth in conflict with the law as part of learn as you experience. Approach.

**Livelihood Strengthening;** The target group reported that their incomes had improved but more important their livelihood has been enhanced. What was interesting in the evaluation which was part of the learning is that for most youth in conflict with the law, sometimes the challenge is not earning an income but the capacity of translating that income into livelihood. It showed that a majority of the Target group were able to set up a sustainable enterprise. This change in income and livelihood has helped empower the youth target group expand their livelihood options and with it minimise their vulnerability to engaging in criminal activities. It also works as an inspiration from their peers.

**Influence Building;** Having an independent VOICE based on issue awareness, critical thinking and analytical mind is key to having a capacitated influence. #ithechange helped impact this into the target group. The other impact areas such as Identity strengthening, Knowledge and skills and improved livelihood options helped anchor the influence level of the target group. The activities such as Community outreaches, Forums and festivals and even the Video profiles assisted in putting their Voices out there. Evidence has shown that though it is too early to identify policy changes but clearly some practice changes within their environment has changed. For example police officers involving them in addressing crime issues or the judiciary inviting their opinions in issue such as probation. Like most youth in the project shared. Unlike before when we did not exists in the eyes and plans of the authorities not when we talk they listen but more important do something about our concerns.