

Hope Center Uganda

Electronic Music Production

Pilot Program: Final Report

The HCU music classes was introduced to the youth at the Center in October 2019, it was a pilot project that was implemented for 3 months and impacted a lot of youth, especially the girls. The classes runs from 2:00pm to 5:00pm every Monday to Sunday. The lessons are designed both in practical and theory part of it. The project was funded by **ABLETON** who provided all the equipment for the lessons and **SAABA Education** who funded the costs of operation for the project. The topics learnt were AUDIO, SOUND, PRODUCTION and RHYTHM .

The HCU music classes goal is to provide electronic and traditional music access and educate the underserved youth in Northern Uganda, advocate for social justice through arts, music and dance program addressing issues such as gender equality, HIV awareness and cultural responsibility. It works to improve on the leadership skills among the youth since most of them got empowered to play a role in leadership and any given opportunity.

The project has benefited ages between 5 to 25 years old, majority of them are girls and few of the boy who are refugees, LGBTQ+ Students. For the pilot project we had 25 girls and 19 boys who benefited from the project. Most of them where able access the DEEJAY equipment and electronic music production item and learn how to use it .

ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Youth learnt how to use Deejay equipment and other electronic music production items.
- It has created a free learning space not only for Ableton music classes but also for other lessons like computer lessons and traditional music for the youth and children.
- Few of the youth who have excelled in the class are able to have showcase of what they have learnt in the different centers within Gulu.
- The youth where able upload few of their production on the HCU social media page, created a whatsapp group with the fellow youth to ensure that there is greater sense of music within the community and the youth.

CHALLENGES:

- Time frame for the project was limited, coz we needed to explain detailed information as per the production for the youth we where teaching who had no previous experience
- High demand for our services in different locations and yet we had financial constraints to reach the youth
- We still lack more production equipment, since the youth have to practice taking turns

SOLUTIONS:

- Need for extension of the project , so that we graduate skillfull and resourceful youth that can start up their own music production studio.
- Need for more funding to meet the extra costs to have outreaches in the different centers who need the services, as well as providing volunteer allowances to students who have shown leadership skills and would be able to work for the program as assistant teachers
- Need for more production DeeJay kits, headset, etc

DIRECTOR'S TESTIMONY:

"DeeJay classes is a project that kept the youth especially the girls have open mind to express their capabilities in skills and talent that was hidden . The girls who benefited in this project were so able to connect themselves with the world and they used heart in music production to express their feelings to the world ! The social culture deprived them from their rights to learn things like music . The norms me to pass when they learnt that through music their pain , fear and joy can easily expressed and shared with the whole Society , the same skills they shared connected and united them with fellow girls and also the boys whose dream lies in the music world"

- KEVIN OKUMU, Country Director

PROGRAM OVERVIEW:

Goals:

- To provide electronic and traditional music access and education to underserved youth in Northern Uganda
- To advocate for social justice and public health through arts, music, and dance programs, targeting issues such as gender equality, HIV awareness, and cultural responsibility
- To empower youth to take leadership in growing their local arts and music scenes by uplifting each other through creativity, culture and community

Target:

- Youth ages 5-25 in Gulu area, with a priority given to female, refugee, and LGBTQ+ students
- On weekends, target students who are in school during the week
- During the week, target youth who are unable to attend school (often those of refugee or low-income families)

Implementation:

- Start date: October 1, 2019
- Pilot program length: 3 months
- Offer free daily access to computers, DJ equipment, and electronic music production equipment to a pilot group of 25 girls and 18 boys **
- Electronic Music Production classes
- Open practice hours for production and DJ
- Opportunity to perform in monthly HCU music showcase
- Upon graduation from the program, students will have a complete track which has been uploaded on the HCU channel, the ability to perform it at the HCU showcase,



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and be placed in a WhatsApp group with their fellow music students to ensure a greater sense of community in the young musician's scene.

- Graduates from the program have the option to reserve time to come in and make music or practice on HCU computers.