She Xperience Program
*Four women with a passion, a mission, and a lot of talent:*
Rehema Nanyonga, Faith Nafula Wafula, Emily Aluoch, Yvonne Achieng

**Rehema Nanyonga (Uganda, 20 years old)**
*Dances to empower girls*

Project and activities: “Girl Be” project. Rehema’s project empowers girls and women aged 7-25 through creative means of learning in order to inspire local social change. The girls that are part of her project are all from her community and are sometimes school drop-outs or young mothers. She teaches these women dance, helps them with their homework (if they go to school), and listens to their stories. The project is still expanding as they are now looking into broderie and music classes. Many women who are in difficult situations could easily turn to early marriage or prostitution as an alternative mean of income generation. Rehema’s project can help save a lot of girls.

**Mission:** To equip young women and girls with the means to gain mastery over their lives. This is done through mentorship, practical skill training, and the provision of resources. Girl Be envisions a society of responsible, independent, and confident young women equipped with the ability to transform their lives.

**Artistic skills:** Dance, performance

**Faith Nafula Wafula (Kenya, law degree)**
*Young, outgoing, and passionate about the plight of women and children*

Project and activities: SEMA “Speak out” initiative. This is a Gender Based Violence (GBV) initiative that promotes attitude and behavioral changes among males and females in both urban communities and university settings. The project seeks to address attitudes and prevent stereotypical thinking around gender issues. It facilitates behavior change by overcoming negative gender norms and it advocates for policies that promote gender inclusion in communities, campuses and secondary schools.
Mission: To reduce incidences of Gender Based Violence (GBV) through comprehensive and inclusive strategies of prevention, intervention, treatment, and enforcement. This is done by strengthening faith-based and community-based responses to the GBV pandemic in Kenya. The initiative encourages youth to take a stand in their communities and speak up against GBV. The project recognizes that friends and intimate partners conduct the vast majority of GBV incidences. Therefore, the approach “Mapenzibilachuki” (Love without hate) is a strategic message to the population. If stereotypes can be addressed at an early age, GBV incidences can be substantially reduced.

Artistic skills: Singer

Emily Aluoch (Kenya)
Providing guidance and counselling for young girls

Project and activities: Emily organizes and is part of many women empowerment projects with children from informal settlements, where she often provides guidance and counselling. These projects involve training young girls from informal settlements through arts and modeling on issues like sexuality, self-awareness, self-esteem, assertiveness, decision making in response to behavioral changes, character development, and in making career choices. She also has wide experience in working with, and supporting fellow young girls in various aspects of life.

Mission: To improve women’s rights and gender equality.

Artistic skills: Music and Modelling
Yvonne Achieng (Kenya)

*Has a big heart and very long arms for hugs*

**Project and activities:** *Maxfacta youth group and Maxfacta Rescue Centre.* The Maxfacta youth group project is with a women’s group of which the aim is to empower women by teaching them on beadwork, message boards, cloth making and to make red ribbons so that they can have an income generating activity that can help them sustain themselves. She also teaches them entrepreneurial skills, to allow them to make progress. Moreover, they teach young people about HIV/Aids, drug abuse, and peer pressure through theatrics and creative means. The Maxfacta Rescue Centre was started in 2006 and has already helped over 500 children and over 150 women. The center was started to help children who were abused by some of their relatives because of their HIV status. Some of the children that came had nowhere else to go because their parents have passed on. The rescue center was opened for these kind of children to find a place of solace. The center takes care of these children, gives them shelter and food and tries to equip them with education.

**Mission:** Maxfacta is there for children, youth and women who are infected and affected by HIV/Aids. They help children to get an education, a place to stay, and food to eat.

**Artistic Skills:** Fashion designer, actor

**General Information:**
The journey to the Netherlands is important for the women because it can open opportunities for their projects. They will be able to promote their projects and expand their network. At the same time, they will be able to share their experiences with fellow young women and men, they can encourage people to get involved, and they can educate people from a different culture.

**Organizers from YADEN:**
**Organization:** YADEN (Youth Arts, Development and Entrepreneurship Network)
**Registration Number and Legal Status:** Non-Governmental Organization (NGO)
**Reg Nr:** N0.OP.218/051/0018/1468
**Location:** Based in Nairobi and working / with established Networks in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi.
**Contact Address:** The Liberty Centre, Pangani Shopping Centre
P. O. Box 22059  00100 NAIROBI, KENYA
Organization Description, Background, and Experience:
YADEN is a youth focused organization that works to mobilize, organize and positively engage young people in Kenya and the whole of East Africa. YADEN engages various creative and innovative intervention mediums to assist young people identify their potential, to advance these potentials into skills, which can assist them earn a decent income. Most importantly, YADEN empowers youth to become active participants in their community’s social-cultural and economic-political development.

In the mid 1990’s it was found as a youth group called ALGAP Kenya. It graduated into an Art based National NGO in 2003 under the name: Youth Talent Advancement Program. In 2009 it became a regional youth focused developmental NGO called Youth arts, Development, and Entrepreneurship Network (YADEN), working directly and indirectly with over 600 youth groups. Amongst these are about 300 that work with goals to build the capacity of these ‘platforms of opportunity’ for young people to endure they better serve their membership and increase their influence to bring about positive and sustainable change within their communities.

YADEN’s strength lie in its structure and unique approaches. Individual Youth are mobilized to form Youth Groups, these youth groups form Networks, it is through these networks that development intervention is realized. The capacitated youth offer hope to their communities through their creativity, energy, diversity, strength in numbers, and exposure. In order to ensure a holistic and fresh approach to community development at the grassroots, YADEN engages the arts and sports in order to develop sustainable and innovative strategies such as the IGSA process, art-preneurship, and the SHE & HE programs.

YADEN has established strong programmatic, administrative and financial systems and procedures. In the last three years YADEN has been funded by, among others, Oxfam Novib, OxfamGB/Femnet, USAID, Crossroads, Cre8, and Plan Nederland. The project funded by OxfamGB/Femnet was for ‘We can end all violence against women’, where YADEN mobilized over 134.000 change makers. For USAID YADEN was part of the ‘Yet youth can’ program, where it mobilizes and organized 9.727 youths into 339 youth groups and partnered with them, to reach out to over 300.000 community members in Kenya. The projects and programs of YADEN have so far, proven to be very successful with thanks to its great donors.

Artistic Director:
Dina Akinyi Abok: Dina is a Dance Teacher and a choreographer and has built a large following of African dance enthusiasts in different parts of the world, with her skills in dance she has been educator and facilitator. Currently, she is using her experience and expertise to mobilize and facilitate young women in finding solutions to challenges that affect them. She does this, as a facilitator of Young women initiative (YWI) which boasts almost all young women groups in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Rwanda. She works with a German institute (Goethe) as a curator and creates an opportunity for talented young people coming together with ideas to pursue local and international collaborative projects. As a choreographer and facilitator she has travelled around the world; America, Germany, South Africa, Hong Kong, China, Dubai, Spain, Italy, France, Belgium, UK, among other east African countries. Dina is currently working for YADEN as a facilitator of Young Women Initiatives and CRE8 east Africa as a trainer. She will be promoting her gender programs in different platforms in the Netherlands as well as leading the workshops and performances.

Artistic specialty: Dancing
Harrison Okwach Ute: Harrison studied Art at Kenya Performing Arts Academy (K-PAG) where he focused on dance/physical theater/sound and light technique in performing arts. He became a professional performer from 2006 until 2014. He was also active as a modern dance choreographer; he is one of the pioneers of the current wave of dance crews/groups in east Africa. He uses performance to educate the society in different complex social-cultural and political issues within east Africa and beyond. His work has allowed him to travel to different parts of the world; Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Malawi, Zambia, Egypt, Turkey, Belgium, Germany, France, Italy, and Netherlands. He is very talented in public speaking and acting as well, this has given him the opportunity to be invited for world platforms of influence at home and abroad, for instance; the international third world conference for women shelters- Netherlands (speaker), Hague talks (Speaker), and 16 Days of activism Uganda (Facilitator). He is currently involved in different projects regarding performing arts, women and youth empowerment. His projects focus on youth engagement, creating an opportunity for skill development and resource mobilization, for viable youth and women projects across east Africa. He also promotes the work these young people do, and educates the communities on issues affecting them, as well as finding solutions to the challenges they experience. He has a great network all over East-Africa where he often travels to be part of local projects based in the east African region. His work has received support from local and international partners some of which include; plan Nederland, Alert fonds, World Vision, Oxfam Novib, Oxfam GB, Young in Prison Netherlands, USAID, State Department- US embassy, and Netherlands Embassy-Nairobi. He is the current senior program officer in YADEN, where he designs projects for the over 600 youth groups or Y.P.O’s (Youth platform of Opportunities) spread all over east Africa forming YADEN Networks. He is the current, Logistics coordinator University College Utrecht- Africa Program, a trainer at Cre8 East Africa, and a Performing Arts Teacher at GIBSONS school, Nairobi. He will be representing YADEN in the Netherlands and will be seeking possible partnerships, which will promote YADEN and its network projects.
Veronique Sprenger: Veronique used to be an elite gymnast. She received her bachelor degree from University College Utrecht this summer, where she focused on Law, Politics, and Development. She did her internship at YADEN East-Africa where she worked as an acrobat and where she spoke at different events about the use of talent for women empowerment.

Contact persons Netherlands:

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