

DREAMTOWN

CREATING SPACE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN CITIES

ANNUAL REPORT 2018



FOREWORD

2018 has been a year of impact and reflection. Dreamtown has continued to support free education for more than 500 young people from slum communities across Sierra Leone. What a fantastic achievement.

At the same time, we have explored how we can create an even bigger impact in the future.

To answer this question, we have engaged youth from slum communities across Sierra Leone, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Egypt and Zambia, asking the key questions:

- *What do young people dream of?*
- *What are their challenges?*
- *How can Dreamtown become best equipped to work for the wellbeing of young people in slums?*

Young people dream of living within a neighbourhood where you can safely walk in the streets at night; be creative and engage in culture, recreation and learning activities; and socialise with your friends in a relaxing and green environment. What we found out is that an important factor contributing to the wellbeing of young people in slums is the quality of the public space where they live.

Guided by the dreams of the young people we are working with, Dreamtown will, in the years to come, work towards realising our new mission, which is to increase the wellbeing of young people living in slums by increasing their access to safe, green and creative public spaces.

2019 is going to be a fantastic year. After 8 years in Sierra Leone, Dreamtown will start up activities in additional countries including Zimbabwe and Uganda, which will enable us to reach even more young people.

We hope that you will be part of the journey of making our new mission come alive.

Thank you for your support!

*Rasmus Bering,
Chairperson, Dreamtown*

DREAMTOWN DEVELOPMENT APPROACH

Below is a presentation of the new strategy that will guide Dreamtown’s work towards making our new mission come alive.

Research

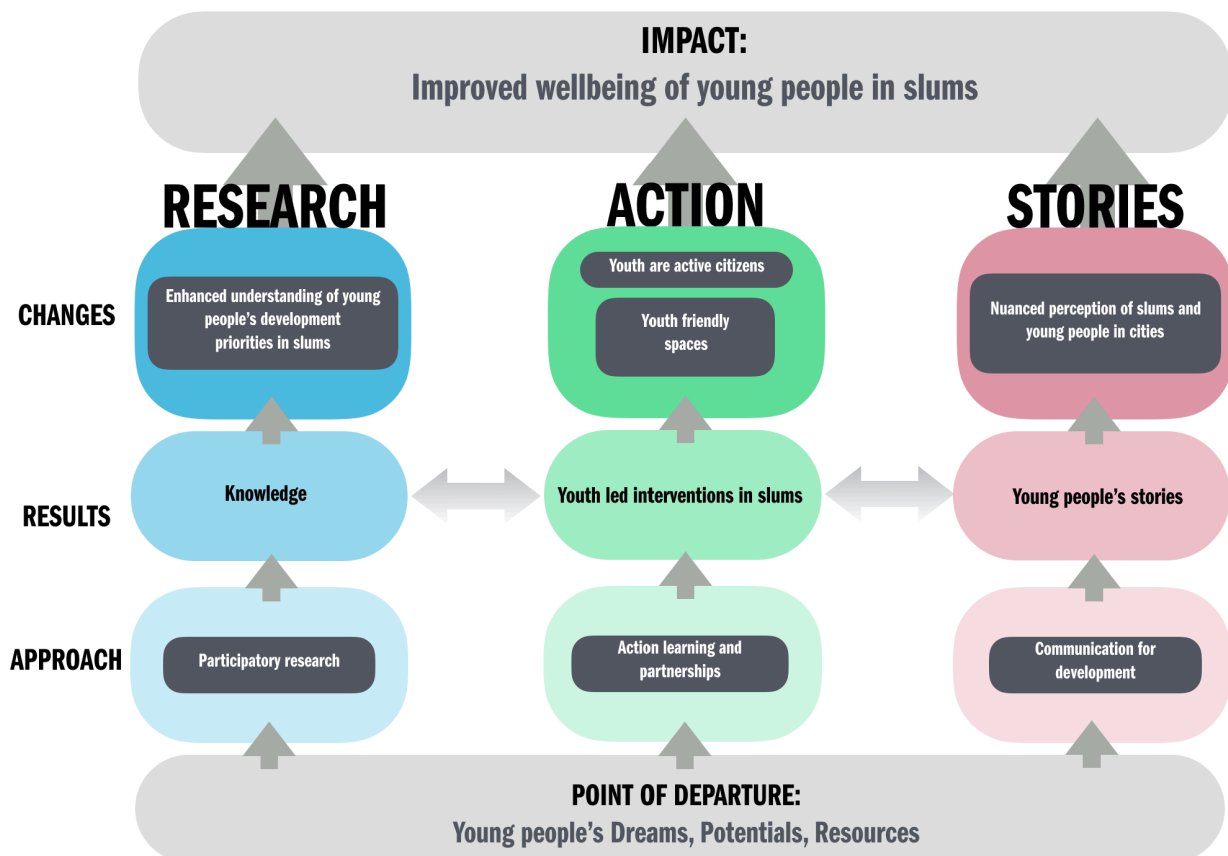
In partnership with researchers, students, and academic institutions, we will engage in solid data collection. Our research focuses on the state of youth wellbeing in urban slums. We will use this knowledge to guide how we work and to engage in evidence driven advocacy.

Action

In partnership with local grassroots and activist youth, we will create safe, green, and creative public spaces in slums. In addition to transforming the physical environment in slums, our actions will support the drive of young activist to become community leaders and role models.

Stories

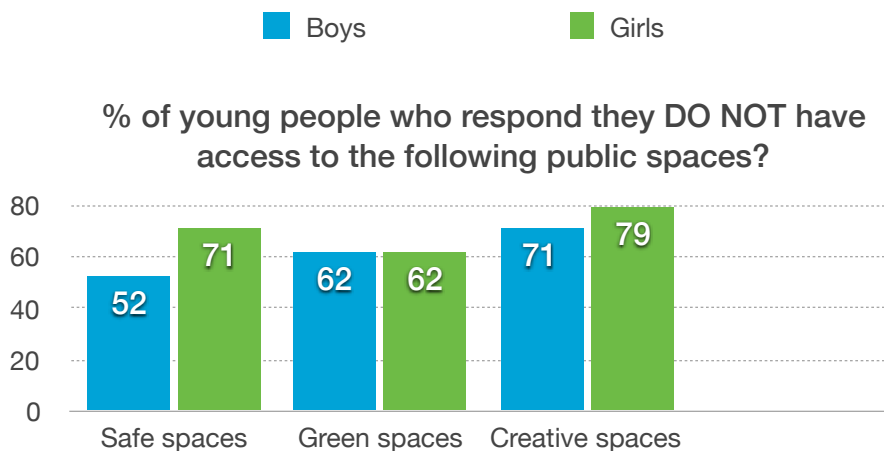
In partnership with local documentarists and media professionals, we will broadcast young people’s perspectives on life in the city. We use these stories to reframe the negative understanding of life in slums and the young people who live there.



RESULTS

RESEARCH ON PUBLIC SPACE AND YOUTH WELLBEING IN SLUMS

In late 2018, Dreamtown initiated a study investigating the state of wellbeing for young people in slums of Sierra Leone in partnership with the local Sierra Leonean NGO YDC, the University of Makeni, the University of Canberra, and the Australian organisation Urban Synergies Group. Equipped with cell phone technology we were able to reach more than 1000 young people from 9 slum communities across the three cities of Freetown, Makeni and Kono.



The early results from the study show that limited access to conducive public spaces is a significant challenge towards the wellbeing of young people in Sierra Leone, especially for girls.

In 2019, Dreamtown is preparing a series of publications of the results. The findings will be shared with key stakeholders such as the United Nations (UN-HABITAT), international organisations working in Sierra Leone, and, most importantly, national and local government in Sierra Leone. The goal is to mobilise support around addressing the challenges in slums highlighted by the 1000 youth we have talked to.



SPACE TO LEARN: INCREASED ACCES TO EDUCATION

In 2018, we continued to support the work of the local organisation, Youth Dream Centre Sierra Leone, delivering free non-formal education for vulnerable young people. At the end of the year, we managed to give more than **553 youth** quality education on a daily basis.

The youth have been reached through the following activities:

Non-formal Education:

Includes language, math, business, agriculture, social science, civic education, and health education.

Information and Communication Technology:

Includes Microsoft word, internet, hardware maintenance, and media training.

Technical and Vocational Skills Training vocation:

Includes cooking, sewing, and tailoring.



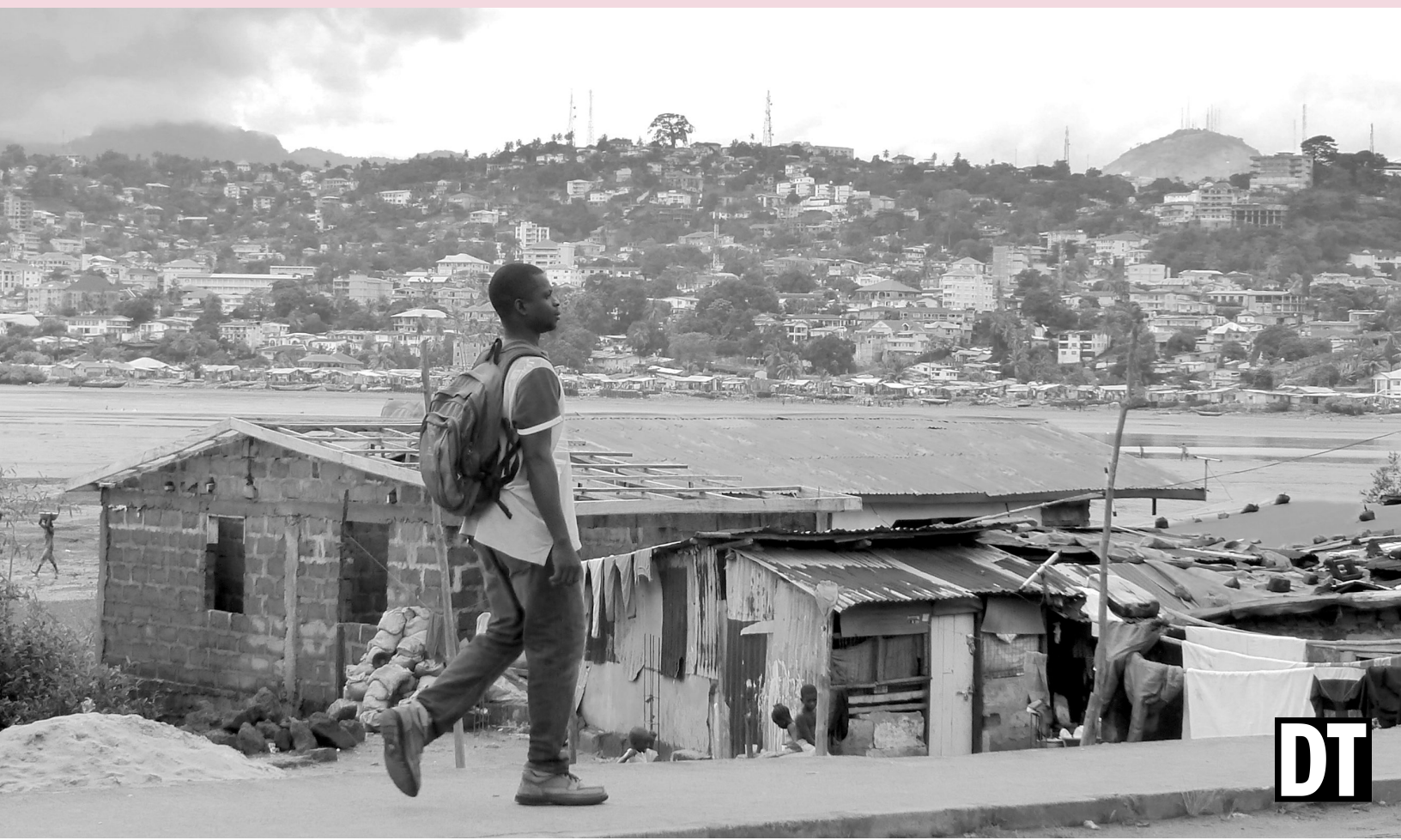
SPACE TO DREAM: FOCUS ON PUBLIC SPACE IN SLUMS

2018 was also the year we started our work on transforming slums into creative spaces for young people.

More than **530 young people** from 9 slum communities have participated in training and workshops focused on identifying dreams and developing visions and plans for how their slums can become more youth friendly.

Some of the ideas developed by the youth include community gardens, community centres, sport facilities, community cinemas, public libraries, and solar powered street lighting.

Next year, we will work together with the youth on making their dreams for a youth friendly city come alive, through our projects in Sierra Leone.



ACTIVITIES IN DENMARK

Dreams of African youth: Screening short films on International Youth Day

Dreamtown celebrated International Youth Day 2018 through two events, in Aarhus and in Copenhagen. We screened a series of short films to portray the lives and dreams of young people in three African countries. The events were held together with our good friends from FAIR and hosted in ActionAid Denmark's two cafés.



Event: Rethinking sustainable urban development and public spaces

Our friends from the Australian organisation Urban Synergies Group came to Denmark in late 2018. Together we hosted an event focusing on sustainable urban development with the support of CISU - Civilsamfund i Udvikling. The event explored new approaches to sustainable development in cities with a focus on public space.



Seminar on humanitarian- development nexus

Dreamtown was invited to speak at a seminar by the Danish Institute for International Studies and CISU to share our experiences from linking development cooperation and humanitarian action, based on our work in Sierra Leone.



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

In 2018, despite operating on a very limited budget, Dreamtown was able to reach more than **2000 young people**. We are extremely proud that we are able to direct more than 75% of the organisation's income towards activities in Africa.

Currently, Dreamtown's financial base is mainly comprised by a few larger individual donations and project grants from Danida's Civil Society Fund (CISU). In 2019, we are working on diversifying our funding base. We hope to increase the income we receive from membership contributions, private donations, and private foundations. This will both strengthen the organisations financial sustainability and enable us to have an even larger impact in the countries where we work.

Income

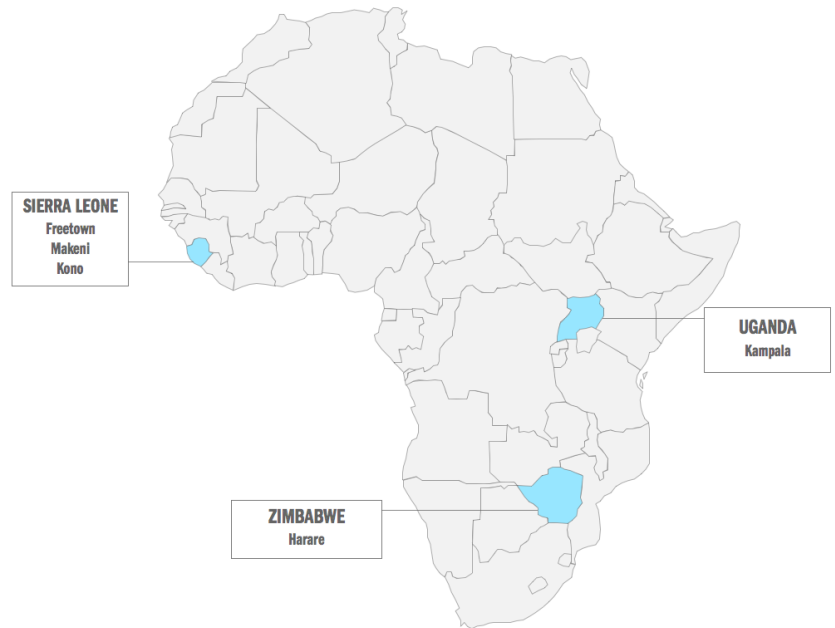
Description	Amounts in DKK	Percentage
Donations	45.229	6,7%
Membership	4.395	0,63%
Institutional grants (CISU)	649.050	92,9%
Total income	698.674	100%

Expenditures

Description	Amounts in DKK	Percentage
Spending directly on development activities in Africa	563.618	76,5%
Spending on administration and salaries in Denmark	173.077	23,5%
Total expenditures	736.695	100%

PLANS FOR 2019

We are extremely excited about what lies ahead in 2019. Dreamtown is currently in dialogue with a number of very skillful and dynamic grassroots organisations from Sierra Leone, Zimbabwe and Uganda around creating access to safe, green and creative spaces for young people in slums. Below is a short overview of the ideas we are working on.



Safe public spaces

Sierra Leone recently declared a national state of emergency on sexual and gender based violence. Dreamtown is currently working together with a network of approximately five NGOs around developing solutions for how public space in slums can become safer for women.

Creative public spaces

In 2019, Dreamtown will facilitate the Urban Space Challenge, in which more 100 young people living in Freetown's slums will compete on who can develop the most innovative ideas for inclusive and creative public spaces. The competition is implemented in partnership with YMCA, which is the oldest NGO working in Sierra Leone.

Dreamtown is currently planning to start up activities in Zimbabwe. In partnership with House of Arts Association - a local network of young artists - we will host festivals, road shows, open mic sessions and develop artistic installations within the slums of Harare. The goal is to inspire more young people to be active in their community.

Green public spaces

Dreamtown is collaborating with the Ugandan youth organisation Network for Active Citizens, addressing the severe climate change issues facing the people dwelling in Kampala's slums. The ideas we are working on include the development of green public spaces such as parks and community gardens, as well as awareness raising campaigns based on community cinema and bus campaigns.

THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS

We would like to give a huge thanks to the people and partners who have contributed to our work in 2018. Thanks to all our **members** who give us the necessary organisational legitimacy for undertaking development work. A special thanks to **HumanAct** who, again this year, supported Dreamtown's work with a very generous donation. Also thanks to **CISU** for a good collaboration on both project activities in Africa, as well as the facilitation of events in Denmark. Thanks to all the **interns and volunteers** who have done an incredible job supporting our projects. Finally, a massive thanks to our **project partners** who ensure the quality of the work we do and make a huge impact in the wellbeing of young people living in cities.

