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About Us...

Our Vision
A self-reliant, healthy, and resilient society that respects human rights and democratic values

Our Mission
Empowering the youth, women and children, promoting good health, human rights, and democracy, adapting and mitigating effects of climate change; and conducting research for evidence based programming and advocacy

Our Values
Integrity
Transparency
Accountability
Team work
Confidentiality
Respect for human rights and dignity

Editor’s Note
Dear Reader,
Welcome to this edition of YONECO Monthly Newsletter. I hope you enjoyed our last month’s publication.

Here is another packed edition of the YONECO Voice Monthly Newsletter. Please, note that you can also subscribe to our newsletter through our website www.yoneco.org. This publication is one of the channels we use to share our promising and best practices as well as the progress we are making towards improving the rights and welfare of the youth, women and children in Malawi.

Enjoy your read!
Lemani Makina

Our Programmes
1. Enhancing Child Development & protection
2. Youth Development
3. Governance and Human Rights
4. Promoting Women and Gender Equality
5. Promoting Good Health, Sanitation & Wellbeing
6. Climate Change & Disaster Management
7. Media, Networking, Collaboration & Coordinating
8. Research, Monitoring, Evaluation, Documentation and Learning

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On Friday, September 13, 2019, there was a surprise visit by 79 members of Mponda Youth Network Mangochi district to YONECO Head Office. The team comprised of members of various community structures like Radio Listening Clubs, Mother Groups, school clubs etc. They organised themselves, hired a lorry and made the visit practical and thanks to our Media, Advocacy and Networking Officer for a warm welcome which was accorded to the group.

One striking feature was the presence of young girls: 12 and 13 year olds who had the opportunity to see models like Rose Kamera and Isabel Molande as young women who were able to make it in life. The testimony by Rose on what she does and how one week later, the office of the Executive Director received a private Facebook Message as to whether YONECO was aware have opened. How the young people got the Executive Director's Facebook Account is a puzzle as these young people live in show s the role which technology would play if properly used. The case was reported and further information passed to the National Child Helpline to support with necessary interventions. This is just one case where a single interface led to the establishment of rapport and utilisation of available platform to talk about pertinent issues affecting the youth, women and children. This young person went and searched for the Executive Director’s Facebook Account and felt very safe to report such a case using the technology and it is very likely that she had the freedom to choose time and space. May be the question is on what we are doing to harness technology to ensure that young people and other community members are able to report such incidences in their homes, communities or other spaces of their choice, YONECO toll-free numbers 116 for child protection, 5600 for Gender Based Violence (GBV) and 6600 for drug as well as substance abuse. While these numbers are being utilised, there are also other tips and reports that are sent to us through SMS, WhatsApp and Facebook.

This development is coming at a time when the world is preparing for the International Day of the Girl Child on 11 October 2019 and the 17 Days of Activism for the Empowerment of Rural Women and their Communities. Both events recognize the roles which women and the girl child have in the society. Now, as a country, are we making right choices and priorities for our girls in Malawi? As we prepare for these events, we surely need to reflect on factors which prevent girls from playing a meaningful role in the development of their society. This is also coming at a time when the world is celebrating 30 years of the existence of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). In the context of our issue which concerns initiation camps that have not been closed shows how the rights of the girl child are being infringed upon in the context of education. By extension, it means we are violating our own constitution.

Another striking feature of the visit was the discussion around youth economic empowerment. Predominantly we see a number of issues which affect the youth. Critical to everything; as Mr. Phiri, then working for World Vision noted “The youth have the energy, have the time but they do not have the money”. According to him, this predisposes the youth to vulnerability including being used for political violence, drug and substance smuggling as well as other criminal activities. There are many things happening to channel the time and energy which the young people have towards making money. We need to reflect seriously on how to ensure that young become entrepreneurs. They should be producer-entrepreneurs, as opposed to trading entrepreneurs.

Lately, an observation which has been made by many people who travel to China to procure goods and sell them in Malawi; is that, Malawi has a lot that can be produced and exported to China. Malawi just needs to start thinking as if there is no box. Our education limits us to think that when you are educated, you cannot live in the village and need to migrate to town. This is a wrong mentality. Critical question: is there something that we need to do to make our villages admirable places by people who migrate to town?

Thus, a discussion around cultivating vegetables and supply the food items to hospitals, schools was an issue which was also discussed at length. It must be mentioned that this did not go very easy as we have a serious mind-set change when it comes to talking about the processes that we are going through. Mangochi, as we all know, has a number of people who travel to South Africa for greener pastures. However, with a mind-set change towards produce-entrepreneurship can reduce the trecking of our young people to other countries as well as positively influence those in positions to redirect or develop policies in supporting them.

Have a pleasant reading of this edition.
YONECO introduced its newly developed **Let’s Chill Application** to the youth at Blantyre Arts Festival (BAF) which was held in Blantyre City from 4 to 6 October, 2019.

The Let’s Chill Application is web-based platform which has been designed to meet Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) information needs of young people. The tool has language options for both Chichewa and English.

Young people who visited YONECO’s exhibition pavilion which was erected at the venue expressed their satisfaction with the Application. Most young people who were introduced to platform called it ‘an answer to their needs’ while others simply described it as ‘a necessity’.

YONECO ICT Officer, Aulphan Kumwenda who was very key in the development of the platform stated that the tool is user friendly and convenient. Kumwenda stated that young people will be able to get SRH information from various articles as well as anonymously ask questions.

Limited access to information is one of the factors which contribute towards increased SRH challenges among young people. Thus, the App was conceptualised to meet this need.

“I’m naturally shy and it’s hard for me to directly ask someone SRH questions. I am now happy because this platform will provide the necessary cover which I need,” explained one of the young patrons at the festival.

BAF was introduced in 2009 and it operates under the banner of arts and cultural development in Malawi. BAF reaches out to 4,000 young people through its school programme as well as 300 young artists with training workshops every year.

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1. Young patrons celebrating the introduction of Let’s Chill Platform
2. Young patrons during BAF carnival in Blantyre City
3. Rose Kamera explaining how Let’s Chill App works
Promoting Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) of girls is key in ensuring that they are able to achieve their goals in life.

Bright Future Girls Club in Robert Village, Traditional Authority (T/A) Zulu in Mchinji is a club that equips girls with knowledge on SRHR. Girls from the club are benefiting from the sessions they have had and now on their way to achieve their goals. The Country Alliance Coordinator (CAC) for More than Brides Alliance (MTBA) in Malawi, Lydia Fuliwa, commended the progress which is being made by the club during her recent supervision visit.

In her remarks, Fuliwa applauded Peer Educators who were trained by YONECO under the Marriage; No Child’s Play Project which is being implemented by the MTBA - Malawi. The CAC also commended the facilitation skills which the Peer Educators demonstrated during her visit.

Agness Jafala, Mchinji District Youth Friendly Health Services (YFHS) Coordinator echoed the sentiments which the CAC made. Jafala added that she has noted some tremendous improvements on a number of things especially on access and knowledge of SRH issues among young girls.

Bright Future Girls Club is among the 26 girls clubs that were established under the Marriage: No Child’s Play project in TA Zulu, Mchinji.

Many young girls have fallen prey to men who give them financial support in exchange for a hand in marriage or unprotected sex.

Many girls have been exposed to a number of Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) problems. Thus, the country continues to register increased cases of unintended teen pregnancies, child marriages, as well as high prevalence rate of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) including HIV.

As a way of dealing with such issues, YONECO trained adolescent girls from Tasankha Girls Club of Machinga on how they can generate income through designing and embroidering bracelets.

After the training exercise, the girls started the activities by sourcing materials locally and shortly, their products were ready for the market.

Each bracelet is sold at MK 500. Currently, the girls have a very wide market than they initially thought.

The members of the club indicated that with their current financial stand, no one could manage to use money as a bait to have marry or have sex with them.
Access to Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) information has proved to be a key component in protecting adolescent girls from unintended teenage pregnancies.

A number of testimonies were made during a supportive supervision visit which YONECO and other members of the More than Brides Alliance Malawi (MTBA) made in the project’s impact area. The testimonies were made during a by young beneficiaries of Marriage; No Child’s Play Project which YONECO is implementing in Mangochi and Mchinji districts with support from Simavi.

One of the Peer Educators, Mercy Phiri, stated that various SRH sessions have had a positive impact on the lives of adolescent girls. Mercy explained that she was trained by YONECO as a Peer Educator in 2018 and she has now become a fountain of knowledge on SRH issues in her village.

Mercy stated that she provides SRHR information to girls through their designated clubs while others make arrangements to meet her in places of their convenience. In addition to this, all the trained Peer Educators also provide other SRH services like condoms to adolescent girls. As a peer Educator, Mercy also makes referrals to health facilities for further support.

Anderson Chikalipo, YONECO’s Project Officer for Marriage: No Child’s Play Project commended the Peer Educators for their dedication and untiring efforts towards ensuring that girls are not getting married at a tender age.

Chikalipo stated that the Peer Educators have also been very instrumental in reporting incidences of child marriage.

“So far, a number of child marriages have been annulled and some of such success stories are attributed to the work of the Peer Educators who reported the cases and made necessary follow ups until the cases were concluded,” said Chikalipo.

So far, YONECO has managed to establish a total of 26 girls clubs in the area of T/A Zulu in Mchinji. The clubs have created space for adolescent girls to discuss various SRH issues as well as access life skills and other SRH sessions which are aimed at ending child marriage.
19 Year old Rhoda Chizinga, a member of Tikondane Girls Club in the area of Traditional Authority (T/A) Likoswe in Chiladzulu district is probably one of most admired people in her community after she managed to become self-reliant through the money she realised from her business.

As a way of promoting the rights and welfare of women and girls in Chiladzulu district, YONECO facilitated the establishment of Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs) Thus, Rhoda joined one of the groups in her community.

Rhoda got a soft loan from her group and used the money to cultivate soya beans on a half acre plot. Rhoda managed to harvest three bags which she sold MK 50,000. This gave her courage and decided to venture into another business. Thus, Rhoda got another loan from the VSLA group in order to strengthen her capital base and then started selling second hand clothes.

Over the months, her business venture has proved to be lucrative so much that she gets a monthly return of MK 220,000. With the profits she makes, Rhoda has now built a strong house and she is able to support herself financially. Rhoda has also avowed to return to school stating that she withdrew because she had no money to for her tuition fees and other necessities.

Speaking during a recent meeting on 30 September, 2019, one of YONECO’s Programme Support Managers, Hughes Munthali stated that the young people deserve a pat on the back.

Munthali stated that the Peer Educators are doing a commendable job in raising awareness about safe sex practices, the importance of HIV Testing and adherence to Antiretroviral (ARV) treatment among young people who have HIV.

“Sometimes, issues concerning young people’s Sexual Reproductive Health are best discussed within their groups and it is helpful when some are trained to provide the right information,” said Munthali.
Malawi Broadcasting Cooperation (MBC) is one of the biggest media institutions in Malawi and of course, one of the dream destinations for many Malawian media scholars. However, Malawi has a high youth unemployment rate which translates into a ruthless competition on the job market especially in reputable institutions.

About two years ago, Moreni Gondwa was just one of the young graduates from the Malawi Institute of Journalism (MIJ) who nursed ambitions of working for MBC. However, his lack of experience back then was a solid block which stood between him and his dream.

One Sunday afternoon, Moreni was happy to receive an email from YONECO FM’s Managing Director, MacBain Mkandawire notifying him that his application for internship was successful.

Moreni, together with other fellow young people joined the institution in 2017. Gondwa was happy to hear that building and strengthening the capacities of young people in various fields was part of YONECO’s core business.

Fast forward to 2019, Moreni Gondwa who is now 24, has become a renowned radio personality.

Moreni cannot afford to hide the overflowing happiness he has. The charm, skills and a good commanding voice which he mastered at YFM has now catapulted him to a position he wanted at MBC.

Moreni Gondwa stated that he will always cherish the time and drills which hurled him from a mere journalism student to a celebrated young radio personality he has now become.

“One magic thing about YONECO is the trust which the institution has in young people. As a young intern, I was entrusted to present the best and most loved radio programmes. I also covered high profile events which, in other media houses, are reserved for old timers,” explained Moreni.

Among other things, Moreni covered the announcement of the 2019 Tripartite Elections live on YFM, SADC Conference on Energy as well as national commemoration events for the international Youth Day, World Mental Health Day and International Youth Day among other events.

Further to this, Moreni was also entrusted with the production and airing of a number of radio programmes including; **50-50 Gender Campaign**, **Youth and Environment, Nditha, Zathu Zomwe**, and **Brother to Brother**.

Moreni finished his narrative by pointing out that YONECO also helped him to unearth a hidden talent he had. Moreni did not know that he was a good actor until one day when one of YFM’s playwrights gave him a script and a character. From then on wards, Moreni had been a key character in an educational radio play called **Ticheze**.
Tithandizane Child Helpline 116

Marriage: No Child’s Play

REPORT CHILD MARRIAGE CASES
Call: Toll Free 116

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Levelling the Field Project has been applauded by parents and young girls for its critical role in ensuring that young girls are free from Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) problems.

The project which is being implemented in the areas of Traditional Authority Zulu in Mchinji and T/A Namabvi and T/A Makanjira in Mangochi uses football drills as a channels for sending SRH messages home.

“I find this approach very interesting because we learn two things; football skills as well as SRH issues,” explained Triza who hails from the area of T/A Zulu in Mchinji district.

In 2018, Comic Relief funded the project which is aimed at contributing towards the empowerment of teenage girls in Malawi. Thus, the project specifically focuses on reducing the numbers of unintended teen pregnancies, enhancing leadership and life skills among adolescent girls, addressing negative gender stereotypes as well as increasing school enrolment rate of girls.

Adyusu Mussa is a 46 year-old father who hails from Mangochi district. Mussa has two adolescent girls (one is 14 and the other is 16 years old) who actively participate in the project’s activities. In his remarks, Mussa stated that he feels confident and happy when her girls have gone out to play football.

“I like the idea of having football sessions and these are the times I feel assured that my girls are safe and happy. There discussions have also improved and the sessions have even boosted their self-esteem,” said Mussa.

Under this project, YONECO identified 40 teen mothers and adolescent girls who were trained by Tackle Africa as Sports for Health Coaches. So far each coach has taken part in four intensive training courses in which they deliver the sessions to adolescent girls in their communities. The girls have formed teams and they compete in various tournaments which YONECO and Tackle Africa organise.
YOUNG PEOPLE from Traditional Authority (T/A) Mponda in Mangochi district visited YONECO Head Office in Zomba on a learning and sharing visit.

The young people, who are members of nine youth clubs which are under Mponda Youth Network, collaboratively work with YONECO in various youth develop activities within their areas. Among other things, the group comprised of Peer Educators, Theatre for Development (TfD) artists, Radio Listening Club (RLC) members as well as Youth Community Based Distribution Agents (YCBDAs).

In his welcome remarks, the Executive Director for YONECO, MacBain Mkandawire urged the young people to have diverse activities in their youth clubs.

Mkandawire further stated that young people need to have good health for them to effectively participate in various economic activities hence the importance of looking at all issues that come into play.

The Executive Director also talked about other problems which are mostly affecting young people in the country. Among other things, Mkandawire described migration, child marriages, increased incidences of school dropout and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) among the youth as detrimental to the development of Malawi.

In his remarks, Mponda Youth Network Chairperson, Selemani Friday thanked YONECO for the opportunity to tour YONECO ICT Centre, Tithandizane Helpline Call Centre and YFM Studios where they held interviews and recorded some youth development radio programmes.

The young people who toured YONECO came from nine youth clubs namely; Chaona, Namakango, Issa Mponda, Chisomo, Mtawa, Kamwana, Ipira, Mayankho, Chanasa.

YONECO, through the Get Up Speak Out (GUSO) Programme is working with the young volunteers to promote Meaningful Youth Participation (MYP), increase access to Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) Services among other things.

Young people from various clubs are also encouraged to collaborate among themselves in order to promote their rights. YONECO is implementing the GUSO Programme under the Malawi SRHR Alliance with support from Simavi and the programme is expected to phase-out in 2020.
let's Chill.
smart choices on SRHR for young people

letschill.yoneco.org

Think sharp, be smart, play it safe let's chill.
YO Oneco Strengthens Capacity of Nkhomba Child Protection Committee

Thus, YONECO stepped up to strengthen the capacity of Nkhomba Child Protection Committee (CPC) which was established around Mayera Primary School in the area of Traditional Authority (T/A) Zulu in Mchinji district.

During one of the monitoring visit which YONECO made to the Child Protection Workers, it was observed that members of the structure were dealing with a lot of cases in a month. It was further noted that the team was very committed to safeguarding the rights of children in their community.

Nkhomba CPC deals with a lot of child abuse cases mainly on; child labour, child neglect and child defilement cases.

“Community members are very open and they report child protection issues to our committee.

Parents are also able to understand the importance of protecting children from abuse,” explained Hassan Banda, Chairperson for Nkhomba Child Protection Committee.

However, the committee members highlighted a number of capacity issues which required strengthening.

A further Capacity Needs Assessment exercise that was conducted further vindicated the need to strengthen the CPC as a way of ensuring that all child protection issue are properly handled by the group.

Thus, YONECO conducted a refresher training course which was aimed at strengthening the demonstratable capacity of the committee.

Thus, the refresher focused on re-orienting the participants on various legal instruments including Child Care, Justice and Protection Act (2010). The members were further drilled in community mobilization, awareness raising techniques as well as case management.

In his remarks, the Mchinji District Manager for YONECO, Anderson Chikalipo commended the participants for their hard work.

“Our committee has the will to safe guard children’s rights. However, capacity issues were somehow affecting our enthusiasm and we are thankful for the support which YONECO has rendered,” said Hassan.

YONECO is slated to conduct more monitoring visits to various child protection structures in the district.
Mulanje Mentor Mothers Denounce ‘Kusasa Fumbi’

Mentor mothers in Mulanje have geared up to end harmful cultural practices that contribute to HIV infections among girls.

This was revealed on the sidelines of a Mother Group Training at Limbuli Education Zone in Mulanje district. After being trained by YONECO, the mother group members explained that most girls in their area risk contracting HIV because they are forced by tradition to have sex after undergoing initiation ritual.

Children as young as 12 are initiated into adulthood and fed with information that is meant for adults who are preparing for marriage.

Odeta Gudson from Sulumba Village and a mentor mother at Mallima school said she will enlighten girls on the dangers of cultural practices such as Kusasa Fumbi (sex cleansing) whereby an adolescent girl is encouraged to have sex as a way of purifying herself after an initiation as well as trying out if she can ably satisfy a man in bed.

“My job is to discourage girls from initiation ceremonies because they are no good,” explained Gudson.

Tereza Njole from Nsikita village and a mother group member for Monjole School said there have been a number of changes in her area. She attributed this to a series of meetings she held with traditional leaders where the issue of harmful cultural practices was extensively discussed. Thus, Njole stated that no harmful cultural ritual was practiced in her area this year.

“We had meetings with traditional leaders and we denounced these harmful initiation ceremonies and I am happy to say that we seem to have won the battle,” she said.
Toll-Free Helpline Service Saves Woman who Suffered in Silence

Lucy Samson who hails from the area of Traditional Authority (T/A) Kadewere in Chiladzulu district dropped out of school when she was in Standard 8 and eventually got married a few months later before she even reached 15.

Years down the line, Lucy could not keep up with the abuses that she was going through in her marriage. Her husband would bit her up at the slightest provocation and sometimes with no reason at all.

He stopped providing for the family and this was enough reason for Martha to understand that the marriage was a mistake. She decided to something and leave the abusive husband.

However, Lucy already had 4 children with the man. She eventually divorced him for a new lease of life.

A year later, Lucy re-married to a man whom she thought was a heaven-sent lifetime partner. The man promised to look after her and the four kids she had from her previous marriage.

However, the marriage became another nightmare. The marriage developed cracks and this greatly affected Lucy emotionally. According to Lucy, the husband started having extra marital affairs. He stopped supported the family but preferred showering his girlfriends with gifts and money while she suffered with the kids.

Then she remembered that at one point, YONECO publicized its toll-free Gender Based Violence (GBV) Crisis Line (5600). Lucy called the number and after reporting her issue, she was properly counselled her and referred the matter to her nearest police post.

The following day, the husband was summoned to Police Victim Support Unit where the issue was discussed and the husband avowed to change.

Lucy’s husband is now a changed man and she wonders why she was suffering in silence when support was just a phone-call away.

The awareness campaign on GBV Helpline Services are being conducted in Chiladzulu by YONECO with financial support from Engender Health through Essential Gender-Based violence Services and Prevention Project.
Edina William of Konga village in T/A Likoswe will always remember YONECO particularly for the Gender Based Violence (GBV) awareness campaigns which the organisation conducted in May, 2019.

Though she could not remember the exact date that YONECO came but she remembers Group Village Head (GVH) Konga announcing that YONECO will be coming to conduct awareness campaigns in the area. She rushed to the ground when it was around 10 O’clock in the morning.

YONECO under the Essential GBV Services and Prevention Project conducted a series of campaigns in the areas of T/A Kadewere and Likoswe in Chiladzulu district.

The campaigns were aimed at raising awareness about GBV and the teams explained some of the causes and its manifestation as well as publicizing the available reporting structures. This struck Edina because it was something that was happening at her home.

Edna faced a lot of GBV and thought it was just the way women live. Culturally, she grew up believing that women should be subordinate to men. Edna stated that she has failed to fully participate in income generating activities because of the same male-chauvinistic tendencies.

After the sessions, she approached one of the members of the Community Action Groups-CAG and narrated her story.

The CAG visited their house and they called for a discussion with involved parties up until the matter was resolved with concrete resolutions.

To Edina, the awareness that YONECO conducted in their area on that day has left a big mark in her life. She further appealed for more campaigns on these in other areas so that a lot of people can know where to get help.

The awareness campaign on GBV Helpline Services are being conducted in Chiladzulu by YONECO with financial support from Engender Health through Essential Gender-Based violence Services and Prevention Project.
Every Child Deserves...

Support
Protection
& Freedom

Report Violence Against Children & Neglect
Call: Toll Free 116
Group Village Head (GVH) Ching’anda, who hails from the area of Traditional Authority (T/A) M’biza in Zomba district, emphasized on the need to operationalize By-laws which were enacted to curb human trafficking and migration in his area.

The traditional leader made these remarks during a Theatre for Development (TfD) awareness campaign which YONECO Cultural Troupe conducted in his area.

GVH Ching’amba singled out lack of information about human trafficking as one of the factors which are fueling the malpractice.

The GVH urged his fellow traditional leaders to take a leading role in the fight against Trafficking in Persons (TIP).

“Human Trafficking is evil and has no place in this modern era. As chiefs, we need to take a leading role and ensure that we are enforcing the By-laws which we have in order to deal with the matter once and for all,” GVH Ching’amba said.

He revealed that a lot of children in his area have been trafficked to Mozambique after being promised greener pastures. The GVH stated that some are promised good jobs, marriages and even scholarships only to realize later that these were simply baits. The traditional leader attributed the growing malpractice to poverty as well as ineffective community protection systems.

One of the parents present during the community awareness meeting, Rosemary Milopo, said it is unfortunate that poverty compel parents to entrust their children with strangers who take them to Mozambique and other parts of the globe instead of keeping them in school.

The activity was conducted as part of the 140 Days Campaign in Ending Human Trafficking and Migration.
Florence Patrick and Stephano Joshua who hail from the area of Traditional Authority (T/A) Likoswe decided to joined Konga Community Action Group (CAG) in the fight against Gender Based Violence (GBV) in their area.

The CAGs were established by YONECO under the Essential GBV Services and Prevention Project in a bid to reduce cases of GBV in their respective communities.

According to Florence and Stephano, they joined the CAG after observing that there were increased cases of GBV in their community. They stated that this negatively impacted on the development of their area.

“Many parents in this community stop supporting a girlchild when she reaches puberty. They do this and say that the girl is old enough to support herself,” lamented Florence.

Joshua also echoed the sentiments by adding that this has led to increased child marriage cases, GBV, unintended teen pregnancies, school drop out rates among girls, and high prevalence of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) including HIV among adolescent girls.

This is just one of the many types of GBV that forced Stephano and Florence to put on their armor to end the vice.

Since its establishment in February, 2019, the CAG has managed to fight and prevent a lot of cases and these include; ending child marriages, settling domestic violence issues, among other things.

Florence and Stephano envision a community which is free from violence and abuse where girls can go to school to finish their education instead of being forced into marriage.

Florence said that, during this period they have managed to annual a total of eight child marriages and the survivors will go back school in the next academic year.

“At first it was not easy, people used to mock us and asking us to provide for the girls that we have withdrawn from child marriages” said Florence.

The awareness campaign on GBV Helpline Services are being conducted in Chiladzulu by YONECO with financial support from Engender Health through Essential Gender-Based violence Services and Prevention Project.
GBV CRISIS LINE

You can report GBV through a Toll-free line

CALL

5600

WHO WE ARE: The GBV Crisis Line -5600 is a Toll-free Line that was established in 2014 to respond to issues pertaining to Gender Based Violence. The GBV Crisis Line is one of YONECO's innovative approaches that are used to enhance the rights and welfare of the youth, women and children. The GBV Crisis Line came into operation as a direct response to the needs of communities and reducing traffic from child helpline.

Our Services

Through our GBV Crisis Line, we provide the following services:

- Free telephone counselling on GBV issues
- Making GBV Case referrals
- GBV Case Management and follow ups
- Provision of places of safety to survivors of GBV
- Face-to-face counselling on GBV Issues
- Providing GBV response mechanisms in emergency situations
- Raising awareness on prevention of GBV

Our Partners and Key Stakeholders

- Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare.
- Malawi Police Service – Victim Support Unit
- Judiciary
- Trocaire
- Simavi

CONTACT US

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Youth Net and Counselling (YONECO)
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