

Empowering Young People fight Drug and Alcohol Abuse Project.

Through the Empowering Young People to fight Drug and Alcohol Abuse Project (January 2020 to December 2022), YONECO promotes inclusive community participatory efforts in reducing cases of drug and alcohol abuse amongst young people in Mangochi through improved SRHR services, prevention of the spread of HIV and reduce the incidence of GBV cases amongst the youth in Mangochi. The projects contribute to the YONECO Strategic Plan (2017-2021), the Youth Development Programme that seeks towards holistic interventions that target youth (health; economic empowerment; leadership development; meaningful youth participation). The project is primarily targeting young people (10-24 years old) in T/As Nankhumba; Chimwala; Mponda and Jalasi (Mangochi). Deliberate efforts are made through the project to also target law enforcement agencies; community leaders; opinion leaders; Youth Friendly Health Service Providers and Mental Health Service providers.

Overall Objective:

The overall goal of the project is to reduce cases of drug and alcohol abuse through improved Youth Friendly Health Services, mitigation on the prevalence of HIV/AIDS and GBV cases among young people through community driven initiatives in Mangochi district by December 2021.

Specific Objectives:

Specifically, the project sets out to achieve the following objectives:

- a) To promote community participation and response towards safeguarding young people especially girls from GBV by December 2022;
- b) To promote effective implementation of government policies in addressing Youth Friendly Health Services, GBV, drug and alcohol abuse among young people by December 2022;
- c) To improve young people's access to SRHR and GBV services towards the mitigation of drug and alcohol abuse by December 2022;
- d) To strengthen coordination on drug and substance abuse at community, district and national levels by December 2022.

2.2 Expected Project Results

The expected results of the project include:

- a) Community members are committed and safeguard young people, especially girls from GBV
- b) The government of Malawi is tackling issues of drug and alcohol Abuse

- c) Young people access SRHR and GBV services and resist drugs and alcohol abuse.
- d) The production, sale and consumption of alcohol and drugs is regulated at district and local level

Progress Made So far

- **2** inspection visits conducted in Chiponde and Monkey bay (**7** Bars and **3** Shabeens)
- **16** Youth Mobilizers (**10** males and **6** Females); **13** Male Champions; **25** radio listening club facilitators (**9** males and **16** Females) were trained to champion community-led advocacy interventions. **161** young people (**84** Males and **77** Females) have been reached by the peer mobilizers
- Parenting skills development where **12** Parenting facilitators (5 Males and **7** Females) were trained and **15** parenting circles reaching out to 240 parents (**23** Males and **217** Females) per week **535** people (**15** Males and **385** Females)
- **18** community leaders (**16** Males and **2** Females) were trained to support advocacy initiatives as well as lead in other community sensitization initiatives on drug and alcohol abuse amongst young people including Covid19
- **2** Engagement meetings with suppliers of alcoholic including bar owners, video show owners reaching to **23** Participants (**13** males and **10** Females)
- Managed to orient **18** law enforcement agents (**13** Males and **5** Females) on the National Alcohol Policy. There has been **28** key criminal cases on drug trafficking that were investigated and prosecuted successfully
- **15** health workers (**8** Males and **5** Females) orientated on provision of HTS and other SRH&R services support to young people.
- **11** journalists (**7** Males and **4** Females) trained to support documentation of stories and advocacy initiatives at district and national level.
- **24** radio programmes "Malingaliro A Bhoo" have been produced and aired on YONECO FM
- **22,519** complete calls via the Helpline toll-free line. A total of **152** calls were related to Drug and Substance abuse
- Conduct entry meetings and quarterly review meetings with district and community-based stakeholders. **District Youth Sub-technical Committee Meeting** reaching 27 participants (16 males and 11 Females). **District Executive Committee Meeting** reaching 33 participants (20 Males and 13 Females)

- 1 District research Committee meeting conducted. Baseline study - In total, the team interacted with **529** participants (**239** youth; **283** households and **7** key government officials)