



## **ONLINE CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE PROJECT SUMMARY**

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## Introduction

YONECO implemented the **Responding to Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (OCSEA) project** with funding from Human Dignity Foundation (HDF) through Trocaire. The project was implementing interventions which worked towards preventing online child sexual exploitation and protecting children from the vice through awareness raising. The project established the extent of the problem in the country through conducting a formative study; strengthened structures and mechanisms to respond to OCSEA and publicizing the available and existing OCSEA reporting channels. The project targeted primary and secondary school students in the three districts of Ntcheu, Balaka and Machinga.

### Overall Objective:

- To prevent online child exploitation and abuse for children in Malawi.

### Specific Objectives:

- To raise the profile about the existence of online child sexual exploitation and abuse in Malawi.
- To enhance the capacity of different structures to prevent and respond to online child sexual exploitation in Malawi.
- To enhance the child protection mechanisms that will protect the child from online child sexual exploitation and abuse.
- To promote the participation of the children in preventing and mitigating online child sexual exploitation in Malawi.

### Project activity

Activity	Target	Achievement	Remarks
Conduct formative study	<b>180</b> participants were targeted	<b>193</b> people were engaged and participated in the study ( <b>103</b> females and <b>90</b> males)	Activity aim was to establish the extent of the problem in the target district.
Identify and Orient OCSEA Champions	<b>170</b> people targeted	<b>170</b> champions reached (100 females and 70	The champions were orientated as they were key in facilitation awareness sessions in their respective youth clubs

		males) 100%	and school clubs.
Conduct essay writing competition	<b>1</b> essay writing competition	<b>1</b> essay writing competition was conducted.	The activity was aimed at empowering children and youths to take part in finding solutions to online child sexual exploitation and abuse.
Conduct awareness sessions	60	65	The sessions were conducted with key district stakeholders, social workers, community members, youth clubs and school clubs in the respective implementing districts of the project and were aimed at raising awareness on the existence of the problem in the communities and prevention mechanisms.
Produce and air radio programs	<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>	The radio programs raised awareness to the masses on OCSEA and lobbied for concerted efforts from the public in addressing the challenge.
Train and Orient stakeholders on OCSEA	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	This activity aimed at enlightening the key stakeholders on the OCSEA concept and ensures they take part in addressing the challenge.

### Key successes

- **3** district entry meetings were conducted in all the three implementing districts and the project was approved.
- **60** community leaders including teachers, youth workers, religious leaders and traditional leaders were drilled in OCSEA and equipped with skills on how to contribute towards mitigating the problem.
- **42** schools and **170** champions were identified and oriented on OCSEA.
- **1** essay writing competition challenge conducted.
- **1** formative study on OCSEA was conducted across the districts.

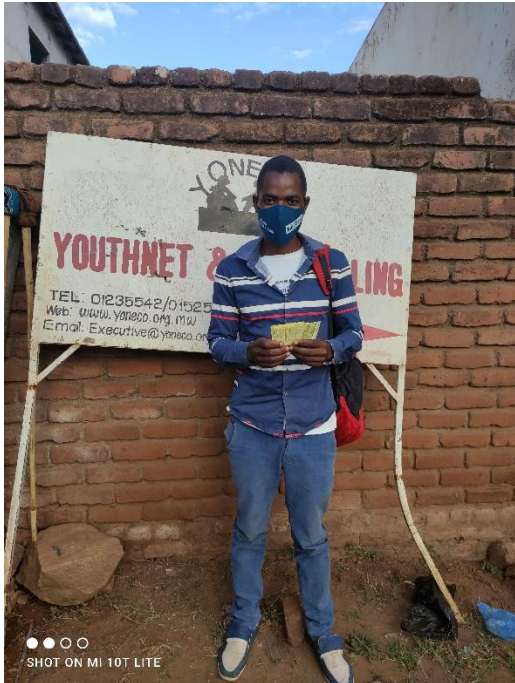
- **68** in school awareness and sensitizations campaigns were conducted.
- **25** sessions conducted with out of school champions and youth clubs
- **42** school-based clubs and **13** youth clubs were engaged in awareness sessions.
- **16** radio programs and **3** jingles were produced and aired.
- A total of **11** cases of OCSEA have been reported through the Tithandizane National Child Helpline **116**.

## Pictures



## CASE STUDY

### THE BEST MOTIVATION FROM OCSEA PROJECT



On 9<sup>th</sup> June 2021, YONECO in Ntcheu district office, under the project of Online Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation conducted presentation of gifts for essay writing competition winners for secondary, primary school learners and out of school youth in youth clubs. The activity was done as one way of ensuring the participation of children and raising awareness in responding to Online Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation. Through the competition, children wrote different kinds of essays in which they narrated issues around child sexual exploitation. Jacob Steven, aged 20,

Vegetable farmer from Titukulane youth club emerged as one of the winners. This came out after a panel of judges from YONECO, Youth office, Police and Ministry of education went through the submitted essays that the contestants wrote. Jacob

went away with K30, 000 cash and probably he became the best winner from the 2 from primary and secondary schools. Jacob Steven did well in narrating issues of OCSEA and he included individual experiences and testimonies in which he said over the past 5 years he has been a victim of pornographic materials. He lamented that he has watched so many pornographic movies and soon after watching he wanted to put them into practice. Jacob continued on to say that with the coming in of the project, he had learnt that it is an abuse to watch those materials and it affects one psychologically.

Jacob thanked YONECO for awarding him with cash that will help him to restart his business of selling second hand clothes. He assured the office that he is very hopeful that his cash will be doubled after 2 weeks. He expressed his gratitude that his will to prepare to win has been very important and winning in life is more than outpacing your opponents, it is maximizing your potential to the fullest of your abilities.