



Youth Net and Counselling

# YONECO VOICE

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## Inside

**YONECO Empowers Women through VSL Program and Skill-building Sessions**

PAGE 7

**YONECO Joins Mwanza KP Group to Raise Awareness on Social Protection**

PAGE 18

**SADC Delegates Visit YONECO on a monitoring Tour**

PAGE 21

# Contents

Executive Director’s Note.....	1
Malawi Commemorates Safer Internet Day with School Outreach Sessions .....	4
YONECO raises Awareness on Drug and Alcohol Abuse Among Learners.....	5
YONECO Empowers Women through VSL Program and Skill-building Sessions.....	7
YONECO Empowers Women on the Streets Through Financial Literacy and VSL Group Establishment.....	8
YONECO conducts a GBV, VAC, SRH and Crime Prevention.....	10
YONECO Interacts with Job Seekers: Urges Them to Speak Out on GBV, Mental Dilemmas.....	12
YONECO Conducts Human Rights and Climate Change Awareness Session.....	13
Promoting Male Involvement in Health Issues.....	14
YONECO Collaborates with Balaka District Social Welfare Office in Cholera Awareness Campaign.....	15
YONECO Intensifies CSE Sessions in Its Drop-in Centres.....	16
YONECO Raises Awareness on HIV and AIDS in Blantyre.....	17
YONECO Joins Mwanza KP Group to Raise Awareness on Social Protection.....	18
Blantyre and Mangochi DHMTs Approve YONECO’s Tithetse Cholera Project.....	20
SADC Delegates Visit YONECO on a monitoring Tour.....	21
Nkhata Bay DHMT and DEC Approve MCGL Project Implementation.....	22
YONECO and Partners plant 600 Trees at Mphepozinyi Health Centre in Ntcheu District.....	24
YONECO Preaches Climate Action in Rumphi District.....	24

# Production Team

## Layout and Design

Wilson Mkandawire

## Contributors

- George Mlowoka
- Enala Msukwa
- Sewenthe Mahwayo
- Richard Nkhonjera
- Ackim Wasili
- Khwima Chipeta
- Jacqueline Holla
- Michael Mwanachawa
- Shadreck Sindiza
- Blessings Chinula
- Andrade Tasosa
- Dunreck Pande
- Happiness Chanunkha

## Media & Communications Manager

Benson Nkhoma Somba

## Research, Monitoring & Evaluation Manager

Daniel Chikatentha

## Executive Director

MacBain Mkandawire

# Our Programmes

- Youth Development.
- Child Protection and Development.
- Women Empowerment and Gender Equality.
- Governance and Human Rights.
- Media, Collaboration, Networking and Coordinating.
- Climate Change and Disaster Management.
- Institutional Management.
- Research and Documentation

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### Our Vision

A self-reliant, healthy, empowered, resilient, responsible, and inclusive society that respects democratic values and principles.



### Our Mission

We are committed to empowering the youth, women and children, promoting good health, human rights and democratic culture, adapting and mitigating the impact of climate change and conducting research for evidence-based programming and advocacy



### Our values

Integrity  
Teamwork  
Confidentiality  
Respect for human dignity  
Transparency and Accountability



# Executive Director's Note...



Greetings Dear Reader,

*....with MacBain Mkandawire*

February 2023 concludes with some interesting developments in Malawi in relation to climate change and environment. We have had two cyclones - Cheneso and Freddy. We hope there will not be any more cyclones affecting Malawi this year. However, other countries like Turkey and Syria have also been badly affected by various natural disasters. We wish them well to build back better.

While the past two cyclone months have gone well, the effects of heavy rains have left Malawi grappling with its climate change and environmental management strategy. Firstly, it has exposed the lack of preparedness in the area of climate change ranging from the construction industry through to the drainage systems in the country. We have observed with concern that we do not have climate change ready engineering systems as we do the constructions. Either the construction industry requires revisiting or we need to change whether the specifications in the tenders are the ones that are being tested. The rains are really putting to test our construction industry in the face of climate change. The rains are also probing our urban planning and environmental management. We are experiencing severe flooding in our major cities which is terribly wrong.

It is important to interrogate our urban planning systems and practices. Some families have lost their houses and lives in some cases. We have seen children cherishing indoor swimming pools that were formed by flash floods right in the sitting rooms and bedrooms of houses around Machinjiri township in Blantyre. We need to ask what has gone wrong with urban planning in Malawi. Plainly, this has also exposed urban poverty which is something that needs to be properly managed in the long run.

While planning and poverty are central in the processes, the rains and climate change continue to put to test the quality of the services in general. The small S143 road from Skinala to Matawale in Zomba city, the collapsing of the bridge along Peter Mutharika High Way around Mwima in Balaka and the collapsing of Area 49 Shopping Complex are all pointing to the fact that something is not right. As a country, we need to seriously reflect on our processes and systems and ask ourselves what has gone amiss.

One would not talk about the lack of readiness in the climate change and environmental management without talking about electricity. According to the plans and announcements, we were supposed to be having good electricity in February 2023. By now, electricity blackouts were supposed to be history. Ironically, the Electricity Supply Corporation of Malawi (ESCOM) is busy informing the general public of prolonged load shedding schedules in the subsequent weeks. We have been informed that Electricity Generation Company (ENGECO) is having challenges with the increasing debris into the machines due to increasing water levels in the Shire river. Well, we

thought the Malawi Compact addressed these issues and we had high expectations. What is clear though is that, while the systems and structures were out in place with quality machines, there was limited preparedness for the run-off from the deforested land. One therefore would only wish that a very aggressive reforestation programme should be implemented to cater for these challenges. The situation is challenging because if the Malawi Vision 2063 is to be achieved, energy is a very critical sector. Simply put, there is no industrialisation without power. We really need to relook at this as a country at all levels and ensure that the electricity issue is addressed once and for all.

Malawi remembers its fallen heroes on March 3, 2023. This is an annual memorial that was set aside to remember the souls of brave men and women who died or got arrested in the fight for independence. These were courageous sons and daughters of Malawi that fought for our freedoms. While political freedoms were achieved, we need to reflect critically on the economic freedoms that we are yet to attain. We need to strive for economic freedoms of a common Malawian. We should never accept the economic dependence of Malawians who live in an independent country. We need to fight for this as we celebrate our heroes. The question each one of us should ask is: 'Am I contributing to the economic independence of Malawians or not?'

Annually, the International Women's Day (IWD) falls on 8 March. This year, the Day will be commemorated under the theme "Equal opportunities are no longer enough." As a country, we have so many pieces of legislation and policy frameworks for women empowerment and support. However, we see so many challenges facing women ranging from abuse and violence to lack of access to services. We need to rethink all the issues if we are to achieve the Agenda 2030 and Vision 2063.

Allow me to conclude with the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW67) convening in New York from 6 March to 17 March 2023 followed by Water 2023. These important events are critical for the advancement of women's rights and Malawi is participating in all of them. The question is; After these events, so what? International and local partners should not be excited about participating in these programmes but rather be concerned with what implementation modalities do we have after these events. Our development partners and the Malawi government have been good in galvanizing participation in these events but we fall short of implementing the very agreements we assent to after the meeting. Is this mere rhetoric?

I wish you a wonderful month of March, 2023.

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# Malawi Commemorates Safer Internet Day with School Outreach Sessions

By Constance Msuku



Insert: Deputy Director of Consumer Affairs at MACRA, Kelious Mlenga addressing the students during the outreach session in Blantyre.

The Malawi Communications Regulatory Authority (MACRA) in partnership with YONECO, mHub, Airtel, TNM, and the Malawi Police Service conducted a series of school outreach sessions in Blantyre, Zomba, and Mangochi in commemoration of this year's Safe Internet Day (SID).

The school outreach activities were organized to create a platform for children and young adults to discuss pertinent issues in relation to online safety and how various key stakeholders can ensure a safe digital space for all.

During the sessions, the students were made aware of various online issues and abuses like online fraud, Online Child Sexual Exploitation (OCSEA), misinformation, and cyberbullying. The participants were further encouraged to report any form of online abuse they face. Further to this, the students were also made aware of various negative impacts of online violence.

Kelious Mlenga, the Deputy Director of Consumer Affairs at MACRA, urged the students to be vigilant when using the internet and to be responsible digital citizens.

Safer Internet Day is commemorated annually to promote safe, responsible, and positive use of digital technology, especially for children and young people. This year, SID was commemorated under the theme; 'want to talk about it? Making space for conversations about life online safety'.

The schools that participated in the sessions include the National College of Information Technology (NACIT), Zingwagwa, Chichiri, Zomba CCAP, and Mponda primary schools and Chichiri, Zingwangwa, and Zomba Catholic secondary schools.



Insert: Deputy ICT Manager for YONECO, Mussa Masina making his presentation.

(Below) YONECO Deputy Helpline Services Manager Mercy Makondetsa addressing the gathering.





# YONECO raises Awareness on Drug and Alcohol Abuse Among Learners

By Enala Msukwa



Insert: Learners at Golden Gate Private School who attended the awareness session posing for a group photo after the engagement.

On the 14th of February, the YONECO Blantyre district office conducted a session on drug and substance abuse with 80 learners (40 males and 40 females) at Golden Gate private secondary school. The aim of the session was to raise awareness among school learners about the effects of drug and alcohol abuse and how it affects an individual's overall well-being.

During the session, a YONECO officer emphasized that learners should not use drugs like African hemp and alcohol while at school, as it can lead to poor academic performance and mental health issues. The officer also highlighted the fact that many learners are addicted to drugs and

alcohol, and this has led to increased school dropouts. In the previous term, 5 girls and 9 boys were suspended from school due to drug and alcohol abuse, and 5 girls dropped out due to teenage pregnancy.

The session was interactive, with learners and teachers asking questions and making comments on how best to help and counsel someone who is struggling with drug and substance abuse. YONECO publicized a toll-free line number (6600) that learners can use to seek help and support.



Insert: District Manager for YONECO in Blantyre, Enalla Msukwa engaging the learners on drug and substance abuse.

YONECO will continue conducting such sessions in both primary and secondary schools to raise awareness and prevent drug and substance abuse among learners. The organization's efforts are crucial in tackling the issue of drug and alcohol abuse among learners, which has far-reaching consequences, not only for the individuals involved but also for their families, schools, and communities.



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# YONECO Empowers Women in Chiwembe through VSL Program and Skill-building Sessions

By Sewenthe Mawhayo



**Insert: Members of the VSL group during the economic empowerment session in Chiwembe, Blantyre.**

On February 6th, 2023, YONECO Blantyre organized an economic empowerment session for women in Chiwembe, where they reached out to 32 women who had formed a group of 70 women in 2019.

According to the treasurer of the group, each member contributed MK1000 every month on Mondays, and the main objective of the group was to support each other during difficult times by using the money they had saved in the group's bank account. YONECO officers suggested that the group start a VSL (Village Savings and Loans) program where they could contribute money and provide loans to members with interest to help them start businesses.

However, some members of the group were jealous and did not purchase goods from their fellow members, making it challenging for them to make profits. Additionally, some members were apprehensive about

borrowing money from the village bank due to difficulties in repaying the loans.

To address these issues, YONECO encouraged the women to meet again on a Monday to learn new skills, such as soap making, which they could use to generate income by selling their products in the village. They also encouraged the women to hold various awareness-raising activities during their meetings, such as sessions on gender-based violence, family planning, and parenting. The participants were thrilled with the idea and warmly welcomed it.





## Women Empowerment and Gender Equality

# YONECO Empowers Women on the Streets Through Financial Literacy and VSL Group Establishment

By Enala Msukwa



**Insert: An officer from YONECO interacting with the women during the follow up meeting in Blantyre.**

YONECO conducted a financial literacy session for women who are connected with the streets. It was observed that even though these women spend their entire day begging on the streets, they often go home with nothing. As a result, the women were interested in the concept of a VSL (Village Savings and Loans) group. They agreed to establish one and even developed a constitution to guide them. Some of the rules include starting with members who are based in Blantyre for easy management of the group, and each member contributing 1000 Malawian Kwacha every Monday.

On 6th February 2023, YONECO followed up on the progress of the VSL group and was pleased to note that 18 women had already contributed a total of MK18,000. This money was loaned to two members of the group to start a small business. One of the members expressed her happiness, saying that she would use her share of the loan to buy

materials for making samosas, as she had the skill for it.

She also mentioned that being a single mother is not easy in the current economy, as most times they spend the whole day begging, but end up going home with nothing. Another member who also benefited from the loan, Belita Sandram, said that she would utilize the capital as expected and venture into the business of selling bananas. She also praised YONECO for the skills they imparted to them.

YONECO plans to continue monitoring the group and establish more groups in the future. They aim to reach out to more women with different sessions, including financial literacy, business management, GBV (Gender-Based Violence), SRHR (Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights), among others. In total, they met with 30 women, and it is hoped that this initiative will help empower them and improve their livelihoods.



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# YONECO Conducts GBV, VAC, SRH and Crime Prevention Session in Nsanje

By Jacqueline Holla

On February 23, 2023, Nsanje YONECO conducted a session focused on gender-based violence (GBV), violence against children (VAC), sexual and reproductive health (SRH), and crime prevention in the area of GVH Magulugulu, under the authority of T/A Malemia. This event was organized in collaboration with officers from the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) and Victim Support Unit (VSU) departments of the Nsanje Police Station.

A total of 28 individuals, including 21 males and 7 females, representing different community structures attended the meeting. The topics covered during the session included complaint and feedback mechanisms, SRH, VAC, and GBV. The aim of the session was to sensitize the community on the importance of these issues and to empower them with the knowledge and skills necessary to prevent and respond to incidents of GBV, VAC, and crime.

During the session, participants had the opportunity to learn about the various forms of GBV and VAC and the negative impact that they have on individuals and communities. They were also educated on the importance of SRH and given information on how to access resources and support in their communities.



**Insert: Stakeholders during the meeting in Nsanje district**

Additionally, participants were trained on how to identify and report incidents of crime, as well as the importance of complaint and feedback mechanisms in ensuring that justice is served.

In his remarks, GVH Magulugulu expressed his appreciation for the Nsanje YONECO team for conducting such a meaningful meeting in his area. He recognized the importance of addressing issues such as GBV, VAC, and crime prevention, and emphasized the need for continued efforts to raise awareness and promote positive change in the community.

# Tithandizane National Helpline Services



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# YONECO Interacts with Job Seekers: Urges Them to Speak Out on GBV, Mental Dilemmas

By Shadreck Sindiza



**Insert: Some of the job seekers who gathered behind Simama Hotel being engaged by a YONECO officer**

YONECO in Lilongwe has urged job-seekers to speak out whenever their rights are violated by prospective employers. The office made this call during an interactive discussion that was held on February 16, 2023 with job seekers at the Lilongwe Community Centre Ground. The discussion revealed that job seekers in Malawi face numerous human rights violations that go unreported.

During the session, most of the women present shared that some prospective employers made sexual advances towards them in exchange for employment. Others complained that they were forced to accept job offers with wages far below the legal minimum monthly wage of MWK50,000.00 due to their dire economic situations at home.

Additionally, the discussion highlighted that the inability to secure employment is leading to an increasing number of suicide cases amongst men in the country.

Job searching can be very stressful, and the fact that some men have been searching for work but with no success is pushing them to take their own lives.

YONECO officers present at the discussion encouraged those who face abuses during job hunting to disclose it to authorities and stakeholders, such as YONECO, to get assistance. The men were also encouraged to share their burdens with trusted people, including YONECO through its toll-free lines to receive support, as this is one practical way of dealing with the vice.

The participants commended YONECO for the session, describing it as an eye-opener and comforting. Toll-free lines were also shared with the participants to enable them to get assistance whenever they face any form of human rights violation during their job search.

# YONECO Conducts Human Rights and Climate Change Awareness Session

By Wasili Ackim and Khwima Chipeta

On February 21, 2023, YONECO field officers held a highly informative and engaging awareness session at GVH Malengamzizi, T/A Kalumo in Ntchisi District. The objective of the session was to raise awareness among community members on human rights, the different types of abuse, and the impact of climate change on their lives.

The YONECO team made an impressive presentation, emphasizing the significance of human rights and how they relate to everyday life. They elaborated on the importance of protecting human rights, promoting gender equality, and the dangers of any form of abuse. The team also highlighted the available channels that community members can use to report any violations of human rights or incidents of abuse.

The session also delved into the effects of climate change, and the team demonstrated how it impacts the environment and human life. They provided practical solutions that could help mitigate the effects of climate change, such as planting trees, promoting sustainable farming, and reducing waste.

During the session, the YONECO team shared Tithandizane National Helplines' toll-free numbers with the community members, encouraging them to report any violations of human rights or incidents of abuse.

The community members were actively engaged throughout the session, asking questions and sharing their experiences. The CBO chairperson for Malengamzizi supported the session and commended YONECO for their efforts in promoting human rights and environmental conservation.

A total of 102 community members attended the session, with 61 females and 41 males in attendance. At the end of the session, the GVH Malengamzizi recommended that YONECO return to Ntchisi and warned his people that he would take action against any abuse that occurred in his area. Additionally, he encouraged community members to plant more trees around their villages and along the riverbank to combat climate change.





# Promoting Male Involvement in Health Issues

By Richard Nkhonjera



Insert: Some of the men who were engaged during the sessions in Ntcheu district.

In Malawi, men's involvement in health issues remains low because nursing patients and taking part in family planning are traditionally viewed as women's responsibilities. To address this issue, YONECO in Ntcheu conducted a male involvement session, where men were educated on five domains that can influence male involvement in health: health behaviors, motivation, gender relations, health behavior skills and information, as well as social economic factors.

During the session, the importance of male involvement and taking care of the health and well-being of their families was discussed. *"As men, we need to help women and we also need to sensitize our fellow men on the importance of male involvement,"* said one of the participants. The session aimed to enhance participants' understanding of shared decision-making and responsibilities in health issues.

A total of 26 male motorbike taxi operators participated in the session. YONECO has initiated male involvement sessions targeting both boys and men in an effort to raise awareness and encourage participation in health issues. By promoting male involvement in health issues, the hope is to create a more equitable distribution of responsibilities and improve the overall health and well-being of families in Malawi.

**3 GOOD HEALTH  
AND WELL-BEING**



# YONECO Collaborates with Balaka District Social Welfare Office in Cholera Awareness Campaign

By Blessings Chinula



Insert: Some of the people who were engaged at one of the health facilities in the district

YONECO in Balaka district collaborated with the Department of Social Welfare office to conduct an awareness campaign on Cholera in the area of Senior Traditional Authority (STA) Chanthunya in the district. The primary objective of the campaign was to provide community members with knowledge on how to prevent the Cholera disease.

The campaign was conducted in response to a call by community leaders who expressed their concerns about the high prevalence of the disease in the area. The organizers of the campaign deemed it necessary to conduct an awareness program that would help reduce the incidence of Cholera in the community.

During the campaign, community members were engaged in various spaces such as health facilities, business

premises, and communal grounds. The organizers used these spaces to reach out to the maximum number of people and provide them with information on how to prevent the spread of Cholera.

The campaign was designed to be interactive, and the organizers encouraged community members to ask questions and participate actively in the discussions. The campaign included demonstrations and simulations to help community members understand the proper ways of hygiene and sanitation that can help prevent the spread of Cholera.





# YONECO Intensifies CSE Sessions in Its Drop -in Centres

By Happines Chanunkha



Insert: Some section of youths from Chinamwali in Zomba district attending one of the CSE sessions at the DIC.

As one way of advancing good health among young people in Malawi, YONECO works with the youth to address a range of challenges related to Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) that they commonly experience as they navigate through the daily adolescent and youth endeavors. To this end, YONECO has increased the number of Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) sessions being offered at their Youth Drop-in Centres (DYCs) across the country.

This initiative is expected to make a significant contribution to the overall health outcomes of over 50,000 young people who will be reached through different DICs across Malawi. By providing young people with accurate and relevant information about sexual health and well-being, YONECO aims to reduce the negative effects of SRH challenges and promote positive health outcomes for the youth of Malawi.

CSE is designed to provide information about gender, sex, and sexuality that is appropriate for each age group and culturally relevant to the communities served. The ultimate goal of these sessions is to equip young people with the knowledge and skills necessary to make safe and informed decisions regarding their sexual health and well-being.

Chinamwali Youth Drop-in Centre, in particular, has been hosting CSE sessions for both young girls and boys of various age groups. These sessions have been met with appreciation from the attendees, who have reported positive impacts on their overall welfare.



Insert: Mr. Chanunkha, DIC Manager for Zomba engaging the youths during the session

# YONECO Raises Awareness on HIV and AIDS in Blantyre

By Enala Msukwa



Insert: YONECO Youth officers during the HIV and AIDS awareness session in Limbe business district engaging men.

Young people are a particularly vulnerable population when it comes to HIV due to a variety of factors, including their developing bodies, social and economic instability, limited access to services, and other risk factors. As a result, it is crucial to engage young people in discussions about HIV prevention and to support those who are living with the virus in managing their health.

On 1st February, 2023, YONECO conducted an HIV and AIDS awareness session in Limbe, Blantyre, with the goal of helping participants make informed decisions about their health in relation to HIV. The session aimed to increase awareness among young people about their role in reducing the spread of HIV and how they can support their peers who are living with the virus.

During the session, YONECO's youth workers emphasized the importance of regular HIV testing and safe sexual practices. It was also noted that young people are particularly in need of HIV self-test kits, pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), and post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP).

YONECO has a dedicated focus on HIV prevention and management in their programming, with the aim of reducing the spread of the virus and helping those living with HIV to manage their condition and live healthy lives. By engaging young people in these discussions and providing them with the necessary resources and support, YONECO hopes to reduce the impact of HIV on this vulnerable population and promote better health outcomes for all.



# YONECO Joins Mwanza KP Group to Raise Awareness on Social Protection

YONECO recently joined forces with other stakeholders in Mwanza to raise awareness on social protection. The focus of the awareness campaign was on vulnerable groups such as women and youth who often face challenges in accessing health and legal services. Mwanza is a border district that attracts visitors from various countries, and the district is considered to be at high risk for HIV.

The recent opening of a one-stop border post has increased opportunities for growth but also poses potential challenges. Among the challenges faced by the district are low uptake of Youth-Friendly Health Services (YFHS) and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights/Family Planning (SRHR/FM) due to massive medical stockouts. The district also faces social and cultural norms, religious factors, and peer pressure that contribute to issues such as unplanned pregnancies among underage girls.

To address these challenges, YONECO and other stakeholders came together to raise awareness on social protection. The awareness campaign was based on issues identified at the police level, including unlawful detention, prolonged arrest, and discrimination against key populations. The responsible officers from the Police, CHREAA, YONECO, and Social Welfare engaged in open and participatory sessions to address these issues.

During the awareness campaign, the YONECO District Manager called for action from the key populations to improve their social behavioral patterns. The officer also publicized Helpline Services Toll-free Numbers for more information and social support. YONECO also used the platform to lobby for policy implementation to prevent social challenges such as power abuse, which can defeat strategies aimed at halting the spread of HIV and furthering progress on programming for key population and interest groups.

The awareness campaign was attended by members from the 32 hotspots and key stakeholders on key populations. Overall, the campaign was a step towards mitigating the challenges faced by vulnerable groups and ensuring that they receive adequate social protection.



Insert: Programme Support Manager for the district Dunreck Pande addressing the gathering.





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# Blantyre and Mangochi DHMTs Approves YONECO's Tithetse Cholera Project

By Enala Msukwa and Funny Chipofya



Insert: Committee members of Blantyre DHMT captured in this photo during the presentation of Tithetse Cholera Project.

YONECO has received approval from the Mangochi and Blantyre District Health Management Teams (DHMTs) to commence implementation of the Tithetse Cholera Project in their respective areas from February to August 2023. Malawi has been experiencing a severe cholera outbreak since March 2022, with over 36,943 cases and 1,200 deaths reported so far. This outbreak is the worst to have affected the country in the last two decades, as stated by health experts and authorities.

To complement the government's efforts in containing the disease, YONECO has received funding from the Network for Empowered Aid Response (NEAR) to contribute towards cholera prevention and response interventions in Blantyre and Mangochi. The Tithetse Cholera Project aims to procure and distribute prevention and response items such as chlorine, cannulas, and gloves. Additionally, the project will focus on promoting Social Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) to equip the communities with the necessary knowledge to prevent cholera.

The DHMTs in the two targeted districts have welcomed the project and called for a swift response and implementation. The DHMTs are responsible for coordinating, planning, and monitoring health services at the district level. On February 13, 2023, His Excellency Dr. Lazurus Chakwera, the president of the Republic of Malawi, presided over the launch of a national campaign to end cholera at a function held at Mgoni in Lilongwe.



Insert: Committee members of Mangochi DHMT during the presentation of Tithetse Cholera Project.

# SADC Delegates Visits YONECO on a monitoring Tour

By Mbanandi Mahala



Insert: SADC and Youth Advocates delegates together with YONECO Executive Director posing for a photo after successfully completing the monitoring exercise.

On February 13, 2023, a delegation from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Secretariat visited Zomba district to conduct a monitoring exercise of the HIV and AIDS Youth Helpline Project. This project is being implemented by Youth Net and Counselling (YONECO) in partnership with Youth Advocates, and it aims to provide young people with information on HIV/AIDS, Sexual Reproductive Health (SRHR), counselling, and referral services through a toll-free helpline number (393).

Additionally, the project offers mHealth services, which allow users to sign up for personalized HIV/AIDS and SRHR information, reminders for service appointments, and specialist counselling services. The project is being funded by SADC and is currently being implemented in Malawi, Botswana, and Zimbabwe.

Led by Professor Vinesh Robin Sannassee, the SADC delegation held a meeting with the YONECO management team before proceeding to Chinamwali Ground, where YONECO, Youth Advocates, and Zomba District Health Office had organized an SRH outreach activity for the youth. At the event, the delegates had the opportunity to interact with youth ambassadors, health service providers, and some of the young people who have benefited from the project.

The SADC delegation's visit aimed to monitor the progress of the project and to ensure that it is being implemented effectively. The visit also provided an opportunity for the delegates to witness firsthand the impact of the project on the youth in the Zomba district. Through the HIV and AIDS Youth Helpline Project, young people are able to access information on HIV/AIDS and SRHR, receive counselling and referrals, and benefit from mHealth services, which contribute to the prevention of new HIV infections and the reduction of the impact of the epidemic among young people.



Insert: YONECO'S Research, Monitoring & Evaluation Manager, Mr. Daniel Chikantentha making a presentation during the monitoring exercise in Zomba.



# Nkhata Bay DHMT and DEC Approves MCGL Project Implementation

By Michael Mwanachawa



**Insert: Members of the District Executive Committee (DEC) during the meeting in Nkhata Bay Council Chamber**

On 24th February 2023, YONECO Nkhata Bay, in partnership with Pact Malawi, organized a meeting in Nkhata Bay District Health Office (DHO) and Council. The meeting was attended by policy holders from Health and Council, and aimed to discuss the implementation of a project of Integrated Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (ASRHR) in the fishing community of Traditional Authority Zilakoma.

During the meeting, both the Health and Council policy holders gave their approval to implement the project, which is called the MOMENTUM Country & Global Leadership (MCGL) Malawi PED Activity: Integrating Youth Sexual And Reproductive Health Strategies In the REFRESH Fisheries Project . The project aims to integrate ASRHR services into the existing health systems of the fishing community, thereby improving the health outcomes of adolescents and young people.

In total, 56 people attended both meetings, including representatives from YONECO Nkhata Bay, Pact Malawi, Health and Council officials, and community leaders. The meetings provided an opportunity for stakeholders to discuss the challenges facing adolescents and young people in the fishing community with regard to their sexual and reproductive health, and to develop strategies to address these challenges.



**Insert: Representatives from YONECO during the DHMT meeting**





**Ntchito za migodi  
zikhoza kuononga  
chilengedwe.  
Tiyeni titeteze  
umoyo wathu  
posamala  
chilengedwe**



## YONECO and Partners plant 600 Trees at Mphepozinayi Health Centre in Ntcheu District

By Andrade Tasosa



Insert Teachers and learners from Chivukutu Primary School posing for a group photo.

In an effort to instill a sense of responsibility and care for the environment in young people, YONECO partnered with teachers from Chivukutu Primary School in Mzimba district to organize a special day for planting trees. During this event, the students were able to plant a total of 200 seedlings in the vicinity of their school.

YONECO, a non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion of youth development and empowerment, has plans to collaborate with various educational institutions in the future. The goal of these partnerships is to ensure that young people are actively involved in creating more green spaces and habitats for wildlife, while simultaneously learning more about their environment.

At YONECO, we strongly believe that planting trees is a powerful way of making a positive impact on the environment. Additionally, we recognize the importance of engaging with youth in these conservation efforts, as their involvement is critical for ensuring that these activities have a lasting effect. Through initiatives such as the tree planting day at Chivukutu Primary School, we hope to inspire the next generation to take an active role in protecting the planet and its resources.

## YONECO Preaches Climate Action in Rumphi District

By George Mlowoka

13 CLIMATE ACTION



The YONECO team in Rumphi conducted a tree planting exercise at Mayembe Primary School. The event was aimed at sensitizing pupils about the adverse effects of climate change, and to reduce natural disasters around school campuses. The district office purchased 70 tree seedlings which will be planted in three schools: Mayembe and St Denis Primary Schools, and Chankhomi Community Day Secondary School.

Rumphi Boma is prone to strong winds, which often results in disaster cases of school blocks being damaged or destroyed. This initiative was taken to counteract such incidents. School authorities appreciated YONECO's efforts and promised to take care of the seedlings.

During the exercise, the district office engaged the district forest office, which provided technical guidance on the planting process and emphasized the need for afforestation.



Insert: YONECO team posing for a group photo with learners at St. Denis Primary School. (Below, left & right) Learners and one of the staff planting their trees respectively.



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