

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Managing institutional rapid growth for youth, women and child development



INTRODUCTION

Established in 1997 in Zomba, Youth Net and Counseling (YONECO) is a local non-governmental organization dedicated to empowering youth, women, and children. The organization advocates for good health, human rights, and democracy, and addresses the impacts of climate change. Committed to informed decision-making, YONECO conducts research to drive evidence-based programming and advocacy initiatives. YONECO is guided by eight strategic approaches in order to achieve its goals and objectives in the 13 districts of its operations across Malawi. YONECO has an established physical presence with offices in Zomba, Chiradzulu, Mwanza, Chikwawa, Nsanje, Blantyre, Machinga, Mangochi, Ntcheu, Lilongwe, Rumphi, Nkhata Bay, and Chitipa.

Central to its outreach efforts, YONECO leverages the Tithandizane National Helpline, offering toll-free lines (116, 6600, 5600, and 393). These crucial lines facilitate the reporting of cases, particularly in remote areas, addressing issues such as child abuse and gender-based violence (GBV). Managing the influx of cases, YONECO's Information Technology (IT) department oversees an online platform, www.cfm.yoneco.org, streamlining case management and referral processes. Extending its influence, YONECO operates the YONECO FM Radio (YFM radio), a community of interest radio serving as a communication tool to disseminate essential messages. This platform aids YONECO in achieving its objectives on a nationwide scale, broadcasting programs and jingles to raise awareness on critical issues such as GBV, child rights, climate change, and democracy and the radio is closely monitored and supported by the YONECO Technical team. Furthermore, with the collaboration with various donor partners, including CDC, UNFPA, UNICEF, SADC, KOICA, Trocaire, VSO, Malawi Government, Standing Voices, and YAZ, YONECO ensures the support required to meet its goals.

In response to the economic challenges faced by Malawi in 2023, including poor export trade capacity, Cyclone Freddy disaster, and cholera and malaria outbreaks leading to a 44% devaluation of the national currency, YONECO demonstrated resilience by establishing a Business Development and Resource Mobilization Management team as a standalone department, focusing on ensuring sustained funds availability. Through this initiative, YONECO launched Y-Investment, an investment company currently producing Mkomya cooking oil. Additionally, the institution secured the "Building Education Foundation through Innovations Technology (BEFIT)" project, being implemented in Rumphi and Chitipa.

This report provides a comprehensive overview of YONECO's achievements and activities throughout 2023, covering initiatives across all 13 districts. It encompasses the radio, information and communication technology (ICT), and the Tithandizane National Helpline department. The report shares outcomes from all eight programme

INTRODUCTION

areas thus Gender and Women; Child Development and Protection; Governance and Democracy; Youth Development; Climate Change; Media, Collaboration, Networking and Coordinating; Institutional and Organization Management; and Research and Documentation. Included are case studies highlighting YONECO's unwavering commitment to safeguarding the rights of youth, women, and children.

Detailed Description of Progress on Programme Areas

Outcome 1.1 Reduced Violence Against Women

1. YONECO successfully empowered women by establishing 6 Village Savings and Loans (VSL) groups around Limbe Market in Blantyre. These groups, consisting of both businesswomen and men, engaged with 62 street-connected women in Mpingwi, as well as businesswomen in Limbe and Chiradzulu. The participants not only received valuable lessons in financial literacy but also acquired skills on maintaining group records. Moreover, rules were established during the financial literacy sessions to sustain the continuity of the groups. Notably, the street women exhibited significant interest in these sessions. The overall outcome of this initiative is that participants were not only taught but also encouraged and empowered to foster independence within their households.

In 2023, YONECO actively participated in a Gender-Based Violence (GBV) screening exercise within flood victim camps. The primary focus was to assess and address GBV issues



and cases prevalent in these camps. This initiative provided valuable insights for both the institution and district councils, enabling a thorough understanding of GBV issues within the camp settings. The gained knowledge allowed YONECO to identify specific areas to emphasize and concentrate on while sensitizing communities about GBV. Notably, it was observed that many people had already returned to their homes from the camps, and there

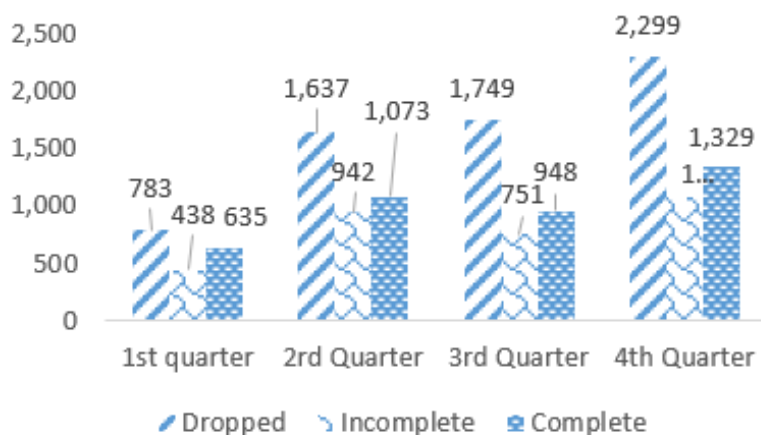
2. concerns among the remaining population about the perceived lack of tangible benefits from assessment activities, emphasizing the importance of providing support.
3. YONECO played a key role in raising public awareness about Gender-Based Violence (GBV). The organization organized and conducted 571 awareness sessions across the nation, reaching a total of 39,202 individuals in districts where YONECO is actively implementing its programs. This extensive outreach not only contributed to spreading awareness about GBV but also showcased the commitment of YONECO to creating a broader understanding of the issue among the public.

Quarter	Number of Sessions	Number of People Reached	Male	Female
<i>Quarter One</i>	70	1,044	456	588
<i>Quarter Two</i>	135	3,046	1,289	1,757
<i>Quarter Three</i>	108	1,674	761	913
<i>Quarter Four</i>	258	33,438	15,731	17,707
Total	571	39,202	18,237	20,965

2. In 2023, YONECO successfully imparted skills and safety information to 78 women during awareness sessions held in Ntcheu. The primary objective of these sessions was to empower participants on human rights at the community level, specifically in Traditional Authorities Kanduku and Nthache. During these sessions, the organization also promoted the use of the National toll-free services as a reporting mechanism, enhancing the community's awareness and access to resources to address their needs.

Throughout 2023, YONECO continued to effectively utilize the toll-free line 5600; the GBV Crisis Line, to address GBV-related cases nationwide. This platform served as a crucial platform for YONECO to handle instances where women were victimized. The organization provided online counselling and implemented referral processes to support individuals facing GBV, thereby demonstrating proactive and responsive approach to addressing such cases. Below is an illustration of the calls that were handled.

**GBV CRISIS LINE (5600)
TREND OF CALLS FOR 2023**



6. Under the UNICEF project, YONECO conducted comprehensive training for members of the Child Protection and Gender-Based Violence Committees in Chikwawa, Mulanje, Nsanje, Zomba, Mulanje, Phalombe, and Machinga. The training covered various aspects, including gender-related laws, the prevention of sexual abuse, and case management. A total of 89 committee members from these seven districts underwent the training, significantly contributing to the enhancement of

6. In 2023, YONECO, in collaboration with the Border Conflict Prevention and Peace Building Project, organized dialogue sessions in five Traditional Authorities near the Mozambique border in Mangochi District. The primary objective of these sessions was to identify and address social-cultural norms that impede youth and women from accessing Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRH&R) and services related to Gender-Based Violence (GBV). The outcomes of these dialogue sessions were positive, marking a successful effort in mitigating barriers to essential services for youth and women in the specified regions.



6. YONECO contributed towards the nationwide observance of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence in 2023. In Chikwawa, the commemorations involved participation in the event at TA Kasisi, focusing on addressing cultural issues that often make women feel unaccepted when seeking guidance. Additionally, in

6. in Blantyre, YONECO took a key role in the commemorations at the Mpemba trading centre, organized under the project theme "Unite, Invest to Prevent."

7. Through the YFM radio program "Helpline Corner," YONECO significantly contributed to raising awareness about Gender-Based Violence (GBV). The programs covered crucial topics, including guiding the public on reporting violence, emphasizing the role of men in the 16 days of GBV awareness, ensuring child protection during the rainy season, and promoting youth participation in the fight against gender-based violence. Furthermore, the program "Tikuchitaponji" achieved a notable milestone by disseminating messages on GBV reporting mechanisms, motivating individuals to utilize available structures diligently and fostering a culture of reporting and prevention.

YFM Radio contributed towards combating violence against women through the broadcast of the program "Amayi Lankhulani." This program addressed a range of issues aimed at uplifting the rights of women. Topics covered included proper disposal of diapers or pampers, appropriate reactions to discovering a spouse's extramarital affair through text messages or hearsay, strategies for dealing with groups that deceive women, handling situations where a husband admits to infidelity within the family, suggested solutions for the rising issue of suicide in the country, progress in child and parent dialogue, the question of women obtaining

loans without their husband's knowledge, the advantages of Chitetezo Mbaula and where to purchase it, childcare during the rainy season, and the ethical considerations of women using charms to secure love from their husbands.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND PROTECTION

Outcome 2.1 Reduced Child Abuse and Violence Against Children

1. YONECO visited various camps in TA Mponda and Bwananyambi in Mangochi, conducting Psychological and Social Support (PSS) sessions with children, including adolescent boys and girls from selected camps, reaching a total of 687 children (339 boys, 348 girls). These sessions emphasized the importance of vigilance against potential exploitation by individuals claiming to offer help and discussed issues related to sexual exploitation. Following the sessions, children were informed about community-level reporting mechanisms for Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and any form of abuse.

2. Through the district offices, YONECO conducted 239 sessions on child rights, ensuring that children were informed about their rights and educated on reporting cases of child abuse and exploitation. A total of 8,853 children (3,972 male, 4,881 female) were reached with information on reporting mechanisms, including the 116, 393, and 5600 toll-free lines dedicated to reporting child abuse and exploitation cases.

3. YONECO conducted 231 sessions on Early Child Development, engaging 4,614 children (2,038 boys, 2,576 girls) through the district offices in the country. The sessions focused on remedial education, child rights, life skills, and counselling, resulting in improved participation and learning outcomes among the children. The organization contributed significantly to Early Child Development initiatives nationwide.

4. YONECO addressed School-Related Gender-Based Violence (SRGBV) by organizing school open days in Rumphi and Mwanza. These events aimed to end SRGBV, particularly affecting girls and hindering their academic performance. In Rumphi alone, YONECO reached 798 people (454 male, 344 female) to raise awareness about the importance of protecting and ending SRGBV in schools.

To equip parents with essential child-rearing skills, YONECO organized 59 parenting sessions in Chikwawa district, involving 488 parents. These sessions educated parents about the

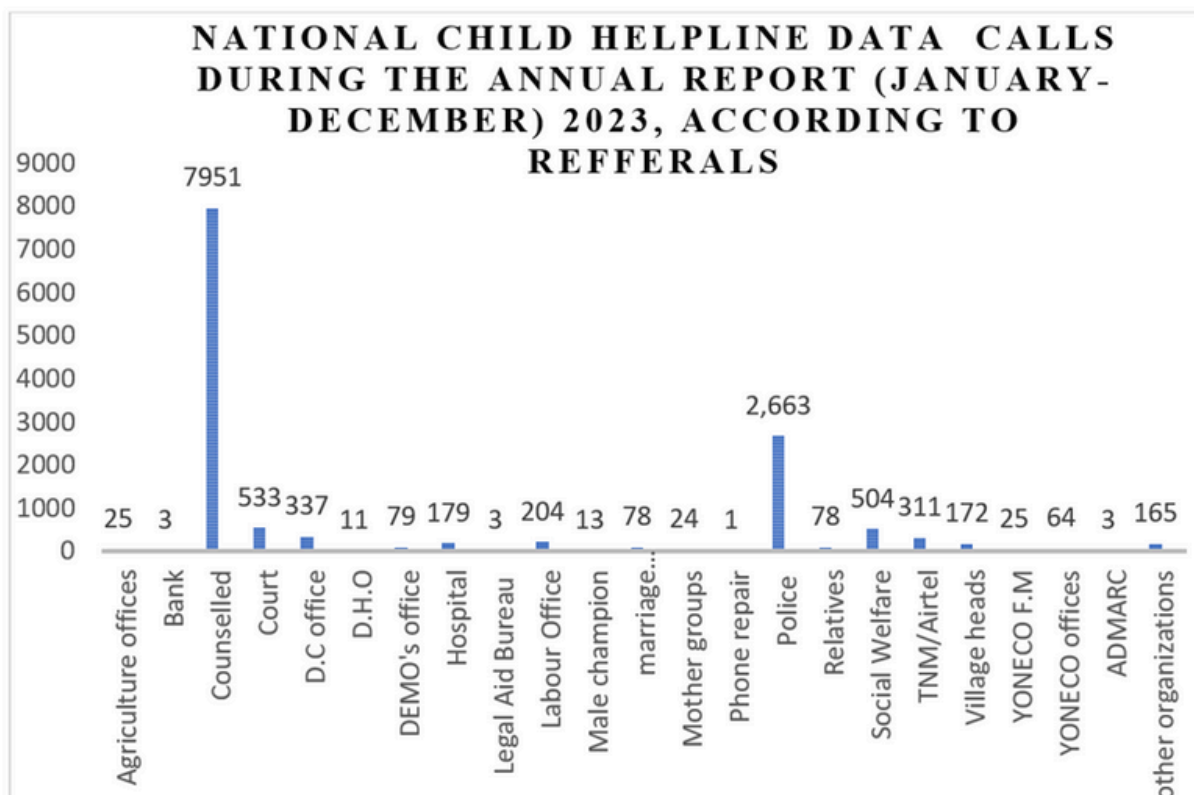
1. importance of treating their children properly, emphasizing the significance of vaccinations to prevent diseases. The initiative was prompted by a health department request related to the Polio vaccine.

2. YONECO district offices in Rumphu and Mangochi organized role modelling sessions in primary schools and DIC offices, engaging 2,455 children (1,057 males, 1,398 females). These sessions aimed to instill in children the importance of perseverance in their studies, resisting peer pressure, looking up to role models for inspiration, fostering good behavior, and pursuing their dreams despite challenges.

3. YONECO successfully organized a sexual child protection sensitization session in Blantyre at Soche and Kapeni, involving 20 women. Participants were educated on various aspects of child sexual abuse, its implications on both girls and boys, and essential protective measures to safeguard their children. The program significantly empowered women with skills to ensure the safety and well-being of their children.

4. In Zomba, YONECO conducted a successful scouting exercise in Zomba township to identify and rescue street-connected children. The district reached out to 13 street-connected children, all boys, providing guidance on the adverse effects of street life, emphasizing the importance of education, and addressing their health issues.

5. YONECO's Tithandizane National Helpline maintained its commitment to supporting the referral processes related to cases of child abuse and exploitation reported through the 116 toll-free lines. This ongoing intervention played a crucial role in ensuring that victims who came forward received prompt and effective support.



Outcome 2.2 Reduced violations of the rights of minority groups

1. As part of the Momentum Country and Global Leadership Project, YONECO established 20 safe spaces in Nkhata Bay, specifically at Traditional Authority Zilakoma. The project included the training of 54 individuals, comprising BVC (Barefoot Volunteer Counselors) members, male champions, mentors, and Health Care Workers from Liuzi and Kachere Health Centers. These safe spaces, situated along the lakeshore area, aimed to deliver sexual and reproductive health messages to adolescents aged 15-19 through trained mentors and male champions. A total of 580 adolescents (257 boys, 323 girls) benefited from these messages.

2. YONECO collaborated with stakeholders and Key Populations (KP) groups in Mwanza, Chikwawa, and Chiradzulu to raise awareness on social protection. The campaign focused on vulnerable groups, particularly women and youth facing challenges in accessing health and legal services. In Mwanza, a border district with a high risk of HIV, the campaign engaged members from hotspots and key stakeholders. The initiative aimed to address challenges faced by vulnerable groups and ensure they receive adequate social protection.

1. YONECO provided accommodation for 782 vulnerable children and young people in 2023 using Safe Places. This initiative protected them from further harm, with stakeholders from District Social Welfare offices and Victim Support Units contributing in districts like Rumphu and Zomba.

2. In Lilongwe, 456 children (316 boys, 140 girls) were accommodated in 2023. Issues included neglect, missing children, unruly behaviors, defilement cases, physical abuse, and accommodation of children connected to the street who expressed an interest in going back home. Home assessments were pending for some children after home tracing processes.

3. YONECO conducted 67 GBV and Human Rights sessions with sex workers as part of an awareness campaign to engage minority groups in Integrated Health Services and Human Rights issues. Sex workers were encouraged to report cases of abuse to relevant authorities. The sessions reached 54 sex workers from Ludzulatha and Chingalawa Hotspots in Ntcheu and Poison, Vibes, and Fikani Hotspots in Zomba, addressing challenges they faced promptly.

4. YONECO played an important role in facilitating the distribution and verification exercise for the Stand Your Voice project in Mulanje district. This initiative aimed to safeguard the rights of people with albinism within their homes, involving a comprehensive questionnaire session addressing various aspects of their daily lives, safety, and essential needs. Participants actively shared their experiences, contributing to a deeper understanding of the challenges they face.

1. YONECO helped to increase human rights awareness through the Know Your Law Enforcer sessions conducted in Mwanza, Chiradzulu, and Chikwawa. These sessions addressed crucial human rights issues, with a particular emphasis on messages related to Gender-Based Violence (GBV). In total, 43 Men who have Sex with Men (MSMs) and 90 Female Sex Workers received these crucial messages in Mwanza. In December, the organization expanded its impact by conducting a human rights session at Lionde village in Traditional Authority Kanduku, reaching ten women. During this session, women were empowered to report any form of abuse, and toll-free numbers (116 and 5600) were promoted as effective reporting mechanisms.

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GOVERNANCE AND DEMOCRACY



Outcome 3.1 Increased Adherence to Good Governance/Democratic Principles and Values by Duty Bearers and Rights Holders.

YONECO conducted advocacy sessions aimed at educating the public about government institutions and facilitating their active involvement in ensuring accountability and transparency. In the year 2023, the organization reached 2,918 individuals (1,347 males, 1,571 females) through 107 sessions designed to raise awareness about meaningful contributions to good governance. Notably, 15 sessions were conducted in Ntcheu district to engage rights holders in government processes. These advocacy and engagement sessions targeted both duty bearers and rights holders, encouraging their active participation and collaboration to promote development rights and uphold principles and values of good governance.

1.YONECO, in collaboration with YFM, organized and covered a series of 9 media briefings. These sessions covered discussions on critical topics such as Concerned Citizens, the Competition and Fair Trading Commission (CFTC), the Malawi Human Rights Commission (MHRC), and the Centre for Democracy and Economic Development Initiatives (CDEDI). These briefings served as a platform to provide the audience with valuable information on matters related to good governance and democratic processes.

2.The organization actively engaged duty bearers in Machinga, delivering comprehensive training on child protection and accountability in areas affected by the Freddy Cyclones. Fourteen duty bearers, including 10 females and 4 males, underwent training covering various aspects such as humanitarian protection principles, safeguarding vulnerable groups, community engagement and participation, and psychosocial support. The goal of this training was to enhance their capacity to support and protect populations affected by the cyclones.

To foster the involvement of young individuals in democratic processes, YFM radio aired a

program titled "Ufulu Wathu Anafe." This program covered a range of topics, including the Ministry of Gender's role in advancing child rights, insights into understanding child malnutrition and its implications on children's rights and development, strategies to ensure children's safety on the internet and an exploration of children's awareness regarding their rights.

Outcome 3.2 Increased transparency and accountability for both duty bearers and rights holders

1.YONECO, as the delegate of the Machinga CSO Network, played a key role in facilitating governance activities supported by the Centre for Social Accountability and Transparency (CSAT). This initiative focused on evaluating and monitoring the progress of projects under the Girls' Education and Women's Empowerment and Sustainable Development (GESD) in Machinga district. YONECO's involvement ensured transparency and accountability in the implementation of these projects.

In Mangochi, YONECO engaged 462 local leaders, consisting of 252 women and 210 men, to help them understand their roles as citizens and address prevalent issues in their respective communities. These sessions took place across five Traditional Authorities: Lulanga, Makanjira, Katuli, Jalasi, and Bwananyambi. Throughout the implementation of these activities, it became evident that some community leaders lacked sufficient concern for the development of their communities and lacked a clear vision for progress. Consequently, YONECO encouraged these leaders to adopt a proactive role in community development, emphasizing the importance of leadership and community empowerment beyond relying solely on government intervention

1.YONECO successfully organized a total of 150 Paralegal sessions and 26 human rights awareness sessions in Ntcheu. These sessions aimed to educate both duty bearers and rights holders, motivating them to actively participate in promoting their development rights and understanding the principles and processes of good governance. Conducted in communities such as Kandota and Chinyamula, as well as at the DIC, these informative sessions contributed to a heightened awareness of human rights, fostering active engagement in the pursuit of development and good governance.



2.YONECO distributed Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials on governance, human rights, and democracy. A total of 300 posters on prevention and care at the community level were distributed in targeted areas, including Tulonghondo, Boma, Thambani, and Kunenekude in Mwanza. These posters served as valuable tools for disseminating information and promoting awareness on important issues within the community.

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Outcome 3.3 Increased participation of youth, women and local communities in governance processes

1.The YONECO Mangochi Office contributed towards strengthening referral pathways for addressing human rights violations against women. Facilitating five sessions, the office established a robust tracking system with support services specifically designed for survivors of Gender-Based Violence (GBV). These sessions focused on engaging duty bearers and rights holders in the regions of Mkanjira, Lulanga, Katuli, Bwananyambi, and Jalasi. The overarching goal was to enhance coordination and networking among service providers in terms of referral pathways. Collaboration with the Police, District Social Welfare Office (DSWO), District Health Office (DHO), and gender-focused stakeholders was a key aspect of these sessions. The initiative contributed to a deeper understanding of existing gaps that impede the timely support for survivors of GBV.

1.The YFM radio program "Zagwera Tonse" contributed towards raising awareness on Governance and Democracy in 2023. 12 four times, the program covered crucial topics, including an exploration of issues related to Gender-Based Violence (GBV), disasters, and the roles of the police and other stakeholders in post-disaster situations. Through these broadcasts, "Zagwera Tonse" effectively disseminated valuable information to the audience, fostering a deeper understanding of governance, democracy, and the collaborative efforts required to address challenges such as GBV and post-disaster management. The program played a vital role in educating and engaging the public on these important societal issues.

2.YONECO conducted four sessions with youths on meaningful participation and leadership. During these sessions, it was shown that there is a need for more capacity building in livelihood interventions. Many youth groups, once supported, currently face challenges with weak foundations, resulting in unprofitable agro-business ventures. This issue discourages active participation in developmental activities.

1.YONECO, in collaboration with YFM, successfully aired and produced 90 radio programs and news stories within strategic program areas such as "Achinyamata ndi Chitukuko," which focused on young people's participation in governance. Other programs like "Titukulane" and "Helpline Corner" also covered the promotion of good governance and conducted sensitization in this critical area.

In Zomba, YONECO effectively resolved a school-related issue where school authorities had neglected to refund money to a student who had used it for paying examination fees and part-time fees. Upholding democratic principles, YONECO's social workers proactively engaged with the authorities to ensure transparency and accountability in handling the student's funds. The approach included a thorough investigation into

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



Outcome 4.1: Improved livelihood status of youth and women

1. The organization conducted 76 sessions on economic empowerment for youth and women, aiming to reduce gender-based violence and enhance their socio-economic statuses. Through these sessions, the organization empowered 4,045 youth and women to be self-reliant and not solely depend on their partners or parents. Participants were encouraged to start small-scale businesses, fostering economic independence while contributing to the country's development. The sessions also addressed the issue of women facing abuse due to financial dependency on their partners, urging them to explore village saving and loan groups for financial recovery and the advancement of their small-scale businesses. Additionally, the organization facilitated the establishment of small groups, assisting youth and women in accessing start-up loans from the National Economic Empowerment Fund (NEEF).

1. YONECO FM played a significant role in enhancing the livelihoods of young people through its radio program "Youth and Employment." This program covered various topics, including interpersonal skills, soft skills, career changes at 30, goal accomplishment strategies, CV updating, work-life balance, volunteerism, and addressing common mistakes. The program aimed to equip and prepare young individuals for success in the corporate world. Additionally, other programs like "Girls Corner" and "Total Turn Around" have been instrumental in delivering essential messages for the holistic development and empowerment of young people. These programs covered diverse topics, emphasizing the importance of yearly planning, navigating friendships, girls' involvement in small businesses, and discussions on girls' year-in-year-out plans.

1. The institution conducted four impactful sessions in Limbe Market and Manje, Blantyre, engaging with 30 women and youth. These sessions focused on promoting financial responsibility within the community, particularly emphasizing the faithful repayment of loans obtained through Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA). Participants were actively encouraged to make informed decisions about accessing loans, with a clear message promoting responsible borrowing practices. The main goal was to enhance the economic status of women and youth, empowering them to contribute significantly to the development of their households and communities. Similar sessions were conducted in Ntcheu, where YONECO interacted with businesswomen to encourage independence among them.



1. In 2023, the YONECO community ambassadors achieved a successful registration of a total of 6,079 young people aged between 10 to 24 years in the Zomba district. Furthermore, Helpline counsellors conducted follow-ups with 3,861 registered individuals through telephone communication under the SADC 393 Youth Helpline project.

Outcome 4.2: Increased literacy levels among youth and women

1. In the year 2023, YONECO conducted a total of 1,188 Early Childhood Development (ECD) sessions in Malawi benefiting 23,788 children (11,031 were female, 12,757 males). These sessions provided parents with the opportunity to offer early basic education to their children, focusing on numeracy and literacy.

The institution conducted 64 remedial lesson sessions facilitated for 288 children (216 boys, 72 girls) accommodated at the Lilongwe Social Rehabilitation Centre and Tingathe Children's Corner in Malawi. These sessions, led by YONECO officers and volunteers from Area 36, Tingathe Youth Club, aimed to help children access free part-time classes within the area. As some children attended paid part-time classes, these sessions ensured that vulnerable children were engaged after regular school hours, reducing their susceptibility to unhealthy behaviors

1.in the locality. The expected outcome was a decrease in the vulnerability of children to various forms of abuse.

YONECO facilitated two meetings with chiefs in Chikwawa district in 2023 to assess the need for adult literacy school sessions. The discussions revealed a significant demand for adult literacy services within the communities served by the district

1. Officer (DCDO) are required to determine how YONECO can address this demand. The DCDO indicated that there are currently no means to support facilitators, and identified facilitators must go through HR processes.

2. YONECO responded to the demand for adult literacy classes in Ntcheu by conducting a session on the same. Although the initial turnout was less than encouraging, with some participants withdrawing, there is optimism that awareness-raising efforts by the office will improve participation by emphasizing the availability and affordability of the service in 2024.

3. In Mangochi, YONECO supported adult literacy by conducting 10 sessions at the main DIC, with four women attending the classes. During these sessions, it was identified that some participants faced challenges with counting numbers, as well as issues related to adding and subtracting. In response, the YONECO team made a deliberate effort to provide tailored support to address these specific challenges, enhancing the overall effectiveness of the adult literacy classes.

Outcome 4.3 Increased Access to Quality Health Services among Youth, Children and Women.

1. The organization played supported the government's efforts to combat the cholera outbreak and COVID-19 in districts such as Nkhata-Bay, Mangochi, and Blantyre. Through community sensitization, community members were empowered to adopt preventive measures, including frequent handwashing, proper toilet use, maintaining open defecation-free environments, using chlorinated water, practicing proper waste management, and engaging in other hygienic activities.

YONECO led the recruitment of Key Population (KP) clients, employing Peer Educators and Peer Supervisors to identify and enroll individuals into the CDC Key Population system. This proactive approach aimed to ensure that KPs not only gained access to quality services but also received appropriate treatment when needed. Additionally, the distribution of HIV self-testing (HIVST) kits to newly identified clients empowered them to be aware of their HIV status and seek necessary services accordingly.

2. In Chikwawa, YONECO distributed 366 HIV Self-Testing (HIVST) kits to Key Population (KP) clients, providing vital opportunities for individuals to learn their HIV status. This initiative empowered KPs to take control of their health and facilitated support for those testing positive. The institution further strengthened relationships between Key Populations and service providers in Chikwawa by conducting Know Your Provider sessions. These sessions aimed to create a supportive environment for KPs to access essential services by fostering an understanding of the roles of service providers.

1. YONECO implemented a Social Networking Strategy under the CDC Key Population project to follow up on newly registered KP clients in Chikwawa, Chiradzulu, and Mwanza. Peer Educators collaborated with partners of clients to retrieve cards that had been held for an extended period, ensuring that clients received timely support.

1. YONECO organized a session with six Female Sex Workers (FSWs) focused on preventing Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs). The session served as a reminder of the impacts of STIs, highlighted the benefits of STI screening, and emphasized the importance of prompt treatment when diagnosed—an approach aimed at reducing the risk of HIV transmission.

2. In Chikwawa, YONECO facilitated the initiation of Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) for clients and distributed 120 HIV self-testing (HIVST) kits to Key Population (KP) clients. This initiative has been instrumental in enabling clients to know their HIV status and access appropriate health services.

3. In Lilongwe, YONECO provided support to 157 adolescents (111 females, 46 males) offering HIV Testing Services (HTS), family planning, STI screening, and pregnancy testing. Notably, 81 adolescents received both HTS and STI screening, 41 were supported with family planning services, 21 received pregnancy testing services, and 14 were supported with cervical cancer screenings. This outreach to adolescent girls and young women is expected to contribute to reducing their vulnerabilities.

Outcome 4.4: Increased male involvement in health issues

1. YONECO organized 105 meetings throughout 2023, effectively reaching out to 3,201 men and boys. These sessions aimed to deliver messages encouraging them to actively contribute to health-related initiatives within their communities. The meetings were instrumental in ensuring that men are well-informed about the crucial roles they can play in enhancing community health.

1. YONECO initiated discussions on family planning matters in Nkhata Bay, creating a platform for active participation by men. Throughout seven sessions held at locations such as Changa K bar, Makomboni, and Mkandira, officers emphasized the crucial role of men in decision-making on family planning issues. The discussions highlighted the significance of male involvement in reducing mortality and morbidity rates, as well as addressing concerns related to overpopulation for the betterment of the nation's health. A total of 69 men were reached during these informative sessions.



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for the betterment of the nation's health. A total of 69 men were reached during these informative sessions.

Outcome 4.5: Improved hygiene and sanitation

1.YONECO organized 12 hygiene and sensitization campaigns in response to the Cholera outbreak in Mangochi and Blantyre, engaging with 4,000 participants (2,300 females, 1,700 males) across various locations, including Soche federation, women vendors in Limbe, Manja Camp, Mbayani camp, Nathoka camp Makomboni, Mtilirwa village, and T/A Chukumbu. The sessions primarily focused on food safety and hygiene practices to prevent Cholera. Participants shared that, before commencing their selling activities, they ensure the cleanliness of the surroundings and the availability of water, recognizing that consumers prioritize access to water before making purchases.

2.YONECO participated in the Chikwawa District Clean-up exercise in TA Ngabu, an event organized by local youth to raise awareness about individual and community roles in environmental management. The cleanup initiative, graced by the presence of Mrs. Abida Mia, the Minister of Water and Sanitation and Member of Parliament for the area, involved 13 men and 10 women. A similar campaign took place in Mangochi, covering the district's main roundabout to the Ekhaya food shop at the Soko trading center.

3.In response to the Cholera outbreak in Nkhata-bay, YONECO conducted 10 sessions to spread preventive messages, reaching 169 participants (48 males, 121 females). The sessions were held at various locations, including the main resource centre, Mng'ona 2 village, Makomboni, Mtilirwa village, Chihame, and Siliva. Notably, the district reported no new Cholera deaths for three consecutive weeks, keeping the cumulative cases at 1,508 and deaths at 44. This positive trend is attributed to the adoption of preventive measures by the community, contributing to a decrease in transmissions.

Outcome 4.6: Reduced cases of non-communicable diseases

1.YONECO conducted 78 awareness sessions aimed at sensitizing communities on non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and encouraging lifestyle modifications to prevent these illnesses. The organization emphasized the importance of personal efforts in addressing diseases like cancer, high blood pressure, asthma, and diabetes through regular screenings and appropriate medical interventions. This initiative reached 11,340 individuals (7,938 women, 3,402 men) with messages focused on NCDs.

1.YONECO FM radio helped to raise awareness about Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) through the airing of programs such as "Umoyo Wanga" and "Umoyo Mkukambilana". These programs covered a range of topics related to NCDs, including discussions on dealing with depression, the advantages and disadvantages of herbal remedies, preventing eye problems, an overview of rabies, understanding the dangers of rabies, updates on vaccination campaigns, addressing myths and misconceptions, the importance of rabies vaccination, and information about the IBCM hotline 3434.

1. YONECO conducted a mental health session at Manja Football Ground in Blantyre, engaging with young people who frequently participate in football games. The session focused on discussing the causes and effects of mental health issues, providing insights on how to cope with depression, stress, and anxiety. The youth revealed that many of them are significantly affected by mental health challenges, often resulting from early forced marriages. They shared that it is challenging for them to support their families due to a lack of reliable sources of income.

2. Mental health, recognized as a Non-Communicable Disease (NCD), received attention through YONECO FM radio's program titled "Malingaliro a Bho." The program addressed various aspects, including the active involvement of youth in combating drug and substance abuse among their peers, particularly featuring young individuals from Mangochi. It highlighted how some young people become entangled in drug use within the context of sports, emphasized the importance of avoiding drug involvement during essential tasks like studying for exams or participating in sports, and underscored the role of community leaders in curbing drug and substance abuse by taking proactive measures when their children appear to be engaged in such activities.

Outcome 4.7: Improved nutrition of women, children, elderly and PLHIV

1. YONECO led four awareness sessions in Lilongwe with a focus on enhancing the nutrition of women and children. These sessions, conducted at Kawale Health Centre and Mwenyekondo communities, engaged a total of 577 participants (483 females and 94 males) at the under-five clinic. The primary objective was to increase awareness among women, particularly those who were breastfeeding or expectant, regarding child and women nutrition. The sessions aimed to augment knowledge about nutritional management within families, with a specific emphasis on supporting child development and reducing instances of malnutrition.

2. The organization conducted informative sessions in Nkhata Bay to educate young people on vital aspects of sexual and reproductive health (SRH). These sessions covered proper condom and lubricant usage, preventive measures for sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and HIV, information on teenage pregnancy, and guidelines for the correct utilization of HIV self-testing kits. YONECO organized three awareness sessions on SRH, involving 426 participants (304 males, 122 females) at Nyanja Market, Siliva, and Liuzi Health Centre. Furthermore, eight HIV self-testing kits were distributed during these sessions, providing individuals with an opportunity to take charge of their health.

3. YONECO conducted six door-to-door food nutrition education sessions in GVH Sadulo and Lauji Village in Chikwawa. These sessions aimed to assess people's knowledge and understanding of nutrition. It was observed that while people are aware of nutrition, practising it is a challenge. Participants were sensitized on how to prepare the six food groups within the community. Food preservation was also discussed, considering that some nutritious foods are seasonal. The sessions encouraged food preservation to address challenges such as malnutrition, hunger,

and potential crime resulting from a lack of food.

Outcome 4.8: Increased adoption of Family Planning methods

1. YONECO, in partnership with district collaborators such as Palladium Malawi, worked together to ensure the accessibility of condoms and lubricants, offering viable choices for family planning. This collaborative initiative sought to broaden reproductive health options for individuals, thereby contributing to the provision of comprehensive family planning services within the community. The following outlines the distribution of condoms by YONECO in the year 2023.

District	Male Condoms	Female Condoms	Lubricants
Blantyre	4,423	0	132
<u>Chikwawa</u>	845,456	0	6,250
Machinga	129,455	0	260
Mangochi	12,240	0	232
Mwanza	184,679	0	7,654
<u>Nkhata Bay</u>	243,462	0	13,282
<u>Ntcheu</u>	113,422	0	7,413
<u>Rumphi</u>	78211	0	401
Helpline	72,981	0	9,070
Zomba	157,238	0	3,212
<u>Chiradzulu</u>	123,432	0	3,021
Total	1,964,999	0	50,927

2 YONECO conducted awareness campaigns on Family Planning in the Machinga district at Makuluni Trading Centre, targeting Bicycle Taxi Operators (BTOs), businesswomen, and other vendors. This activity was initiated in response to the increasing number of reported cases of children being neglected by their parents, as brought to the attention of the YONECO office in the district.

1. The institution facilitated an advocacy meeting with Connect Malawi Plus – Action for Adolescent Girls and Young Women Project. This project aims to promote peer-to-peer innovations addressing the vulnerability of adolescent girls and young women to HIV infection and facilitate linkage to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services, including HIV testing services and Family Planning.
2. YONECO successfully conducted four sessions on family planning in Machinga at Ntaja Trading Centre. These sessions, attended by 43 bicycle taxi operators, not only provide awareness on the usage of condoms but also empowered participants to encourage their spouses to access family planning services at various health centres. This effort aimed to promote family planning and raise awareness about the importance of responsible sexual health practices within the community.
3. YONECO carried out door-to-door family planning sessions in Kabudula Village, Chikwawa, engaging with four households and reaching a total of 14 people (8 men, 6 women). The objective of these sessions was to sensitize households on the importance of family planning, emphasizing that proper planning can alleviate the burdens associated with having children at the right time. It was observed that many children in the village were not attending school, and the parents seemed to be accepting of this situation. In response, the district office has planned to meet with the Village Head and conduct awareness sessions on this matter.

Outcome 4.9: Reduced negative behaviors among youth

1. The institution successfully conducted a total of 1,036 life skills sessions, reaching 308,901 young people (197,662 Females, 111,239 Males). These sessions were designed to deliver messages aimed at reducing negative behaviors among young individuals. The goal was to equip them with skills in positive decision-making to ensure a bright future.
2. YONECO organized an awareness session on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) at Chulu Community Day Secondary School in Kasungu district. Attended by 180 students (120 girls, 60 boys), the session aimed to provide accurate and comprehensive information on SRHR. Topics covered included understanding one's own body, protecting against potential health risks associated with sexual activity, and safeguarding sexual and reproductive rights.
3. To promote positive lifestyles among young people, YONECO FM radio aired a program titled "Youth and Christianity" on six occasions. Covering various topics, including overcoming challenges through faith, being a genuine Christian, managing relationships with friends, proper behavior for Christian youth in society, Christian youth participation in politics, and perspectives on issues related to homosexuality. Additionally, a similar program called "Youth and Islam" addressed subjects such as pursuing Islamic faith among young people, the significance of prayer in Islamic faith, choice of Nasheed (Islamic music), and an understanding of Nikkah (Islamic marriage).
4. YONECO inspired children in Rumphu to excel in their educational journey. Recognizing challenges such as a lack of mentorship and discouragement due to financial constraints, the organization took proactive measures to address these issues. Through 8 impactful sessions, 1,154 children (548 males, 606 females) were reached, breaking down barriers by engaging role models within the community

1. YONECO in Blantyre conducted a session on drug and substance abuse, reaching 17 young people at Ambiri Akutero Garage in Manje. The aim was to equip the youth with information on the consequences of abusing drugs and alcohol, empowering them to make informed decisions. YONECO also engaged primary school learners in Mzimba on the dangers of drug and substance abuse, factors contributing to increased school drop-outs and poor academic performance.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Outcome 5.1: Enhanced resilience of communities most at risk of climate-related disasters

1. The organization actively took part in a Tree Planting Launch in Chikwawa, organized by the District Forest Office. The event, held at Mphonde Primary School in TA Ngabu, saw YONECO participating as a stakeholder promoting tree and forest conservation in the region. The engagement not only increased the visibility of the organization in the area but also earned recognition for its commendable efforts in the program. The initiative, supported by World Vision, resulted in the planting of 350 Nimu trees.



1. YONECO engaged 20 camps in Blantyre, situated in different communities affected by Cyclone Freddy, in hygiene and sanitation sessions. The initiative aimed to increase awareness in response to the cholera outbreak in the district, reaching 2,500 individuals with essential messages on preventing cholera. Participants in these sessions expressed commitment to adhering to preventive measures.

1. YONECO, in collaboration with its partners under the SAMALA Project, successfully organized a field day event at Khosolo in Mzimba. During this event, SAMALA Project implementing partners, including Total Land Care, YONECO, and the International Centre for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF), showcased climate-smart agricultural practices and technologies. These included various methods of making compost manure and energy-efficient stoves.

2. YFM radio programs like "Mphamvu za Chilengedwe," "Mlimi Akutinji," and "Chilengedwe ndi Tsogolo" played a significant role in boosting youth participation in forestry management. These programs actively engaged young people, empowering them to contribute actively to mitigating the effects of climate change.

3. In Ntcheu District, YONECO participated in a District Civil Protection Committee meeting where members reviewed the current disaster situation in the district. The discussion included plans for allocating survivors based on the decision to decommission the camp located at Phanga Village in T/A Masasa Lower.

4. YONECO conducted sessions involving 87 charcoal sellers in Ntcheu to address climate change. These sessions raised awareness among sellers about the adverse effects of certain human activities on climate change and their impact on economic development. The goal was to encourage a shift toward environmentally friendly practices, contributing not only to mitigating climate change but also to the overall progress of the nation.



Outcome 5.2: Increased capacity of community members to manage the environment

1. In Ntcheu, YONECO facilitated sessions to empower participants to cultivate diverse crops resistant to varying weather conditions, promoting local food variety and reducing malnutrition cases. A total of 26 participants (8 males, 18 females) engaged in three sessions. Participants expressed optimism about a potentially high yield in 2023, attributing it to favorable rainfall. However, they faced challenges such as the high cost of fertilizer, prompting YONECO to advocate for manual alternatives to alleviate costs.

2. YONECO participated in a clean-up exercise organized by the Zomba District Council. During this event, participants, especially school leadership, pledged to take proactive measures in environmental management. The cleanup initiative encouraged individuals to adopt proper waste management practices, fostering a realization of the benefits of environmental stewardship. Ongoing sessions on environmental management have led to reduced improper waste disposal at the household level, with community members now utilizing designated rubbish pits. Similar exercises took place in Chikwawa, where YONECO participated in clean-up initiatives in TA Makhwira and Lundu.

3. YONECO provided training to 25 girls on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in the context of climate change and disaster management in Rumphi. The training equipped the girls with skills in disaster management, enabling them to identify and address risks and challenges faced by adolescents during disasters and climate change. The girls found the training valuable, citing real-life examples from their communities that resonated with the content.

2. YONECO FM broadcasted a series of radio programs, including "Mphamvu za

1. Chilengedwe," "Mlimi Akutinji," and "Chilengedwe ndi Tsogolo," emphasizing climate-smart agricultural practices for environmental management. The programs covered diverse topics such as post-harvest challenges faced by farmers, the impact of farm subsidies on smallholder farmers, challenges brought by Cyclone Freddy, discussions on milk production with cattle farmers, insights into Mbeya fertilizer production and application, and preparations for farming seasons in the context of climate change. Additionally, a documentary on the SAMALA project was featured.

2. YONECO conducted door-to-door awareness sessions on disaster preparedness in Likangala village, Zomba. The focus of the messages was to encourage residents to plant more trees after deforestation, avoid constructing houses near rivers, and refrain from disposing of waste in rivers. The communities expressed agreement and commitment to adhere to the recommended procedures, including initiating tree planting on bare grounds and maintaining a clean environment by avoiding waste disposal in rivers.

MEDIA, COLLABORATION, NETWORKING & COORDINATING

Outcome 6.1: Increased participation in strategic networks to influence decisions

In order to maintain its influence in strategic networks at district and national level, YONECO participated in the following meetings: -

1. YONECO participated in the development and review of the District Disaster Risk Management Plan in Chikwawa. The organization played a significant role as a task force member, contributing valuable insights, especially in areas such as protection and Gender-Based Violence (GBV). Additionally, YONECO engaged in the national protection cluster assessment, collaborating with district stakeholders to evaluate the cluster's response to the cyclone. This assessment served as a platform for stakeholders to brainstorm ideas and identify the best ways to support survivors.

2. In Chikwawa, YONECO attended five crucial meetings, including a DIP meeting organized by the Ministry of Health, DACC, DEC, the Review of District Contingency Plan, Child Protection TWG, and Gender TWG meetings.

3. YONECO actively participated in four district-based meetings in Ntcheu, focusing on Development Education Communication (DEC), the Civil Society Agriculture Network (CISANET), and the Malawi Economic Justice Network (MEJN). During these meetings, YONECO presented the progress of its services, showcasing how they complemented government efforts. The organization plans to consistently provide updates on interventions through these district-based meetings, enhancing its visibility among stakeholders.

4. In Machinga, YONECO attended nine meetings with stakeholders, including Gender TWG, Youth TWG, DEC, Child Protection TWG, and CSO Network. These meetings not only strengthened YONECO's visibility but also facilitated collaboration and coordination with key stakeholders.

5. YONECO actively participated in 12 meetings in Nkhata-Bay, engaging with 662 stakeholders (393 males, 269 females) in various capacities, such as DACC, DEC, National Planning for Small Scale Fisheries, GTWG, Monitoring of NCA and DCA, MANASO HIV/AIDS Northern region coordination meeting, Child protection group at council chamber hall, FARMSE project planning meeting at Nkhakar hall, 2022 – 2027 HIV/AIDS policy dissemination meeting at Pastoral center, DMEC, Indoor Residual Spray Interview, National Numeracy and Familiarization MCGL tool at Nkhata Bay DHO. YONECO's active involvement in these meetings demonstrated its commitment to influencing decisions that contribute to the development of communities.

6. YONECO successfully influenced two decisions at DCPC, suggesting a thorough assessment when drilling boreholes and recommending a recovery project to support survivors during the decommissioning phase in the district.

1. These recommendations were made following a presentation highlighting the underutilization of some boreholes since their drilling.

2. In Ntcheu, YONECO attended various meetings, including the Child Parliament, DEC, DCPC, Joint monitoring to project interventions, dissemination of standard operating procedures for Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW), Mapping exercise of CSOs implementing Food and Nutrition Security, district Child Parliament preparatory meeting, and Community-Led monitoring. These engagements allowed YONECO to actively contribute to discussions and decisions related to community development.

3. In Chikwawa, YONECO participated in a dashboard meeting with Partners in Health (PIH) at CK DHO, a meeting on testing at CK DHO, and meetings with Chikwawa and Nsanje stakeholders on UNICEF-funded project activities. These engagements were vital for collaborative planning and aligning expectations from stakeholders to support project activities implementation.

Outcome 6.2: Enhanced coordination and collaboration

YONECO also conducted several district and national-level meetings to improve the coordination and collaboration with its stakeholders and partners. Some of the key meetings in 2023 included the following:

1. YONECO participated in various coordination meetings, including DCPC, Protection cluster meetings, dialogue meetings on discrimination against minority rights, DEC, CSO network meeting, Gender TWG, DACC, DEMEC, Youth and sports TWG, and Child protection TWG meetings. These engagements not only increased YONECO's visibility in the district but also enhanced coordination and networking with key stakeholders.

2. YONECO facilitated 16 meetings, engaging a total of 1,005 participants (546 males, 459 females), to review sexual assault cases and address other case management issues with the VSU office. The organization conducted child protection awareness sessions in collaboration with the traffic police and VSU office at Kalambwe Primary School. Additionally, YONECO coordinated meetings with stakeholders, including the Victim Support Coordinator over the One-stop Centre at NB-DHO, planning for awareness in schools across Nkhata-Bay, DACC, ACB, District Civic Education Hub, DEC meeting, CSO meeting in the district, Social welfare regarding the implementation of ECD in the district, and a tool design workshop in Mzuzu where the PACT-MCGL refresher project was introduced.

3. YONECO actively engaged key stakeholders in Rumphi District to ensure that cases of human rights violations are managed and concluded promptly. Stakeholders involved in the discussions included the District Youth Officer, District Social Welfare Officer, District Gender Officer, District Health Officer, Director of Planning and Development, District Community Development Officer, Coordinator for HIV/AIDS, Principal Nutrition HIV/AIDS Officer, and the District Labour Officer. The discussions covered various aspects related to youth, women, and children's programming.

4. In Mangochi, YONECO increased its visibility and enhanced coordination and

1. networking with district stakeholders through participation in coordination meetings such as Court Users Committee, DACC, Youth Sub-Technical meeting, Trafficking in Person Coordinating Committee meeting, preparation meeting on the Day of the African Child, and CSO meeting.

2. YONECO attended 15 coordination meetings in Nkhata Bay, engaging with 302 stakeholders during LAPA (Local Authority Performance Assessment) and conflict mapping exercises at the Nkhatabay district council chamber hall, DEC meetings at Nkhatabay district council chamber hall, Grand Palace in Mzuzu, and Usisya, ADC/VDC meetings, sessions in Mkumbira and Mng'ona 2 women groups, and the UN Sustainable Development Goals framework meeting in Mzuzu.

3. In Chikwawa district, YONECO participated in and conducted 29 coordination meetings with different stakeholders. These meetings included DEC, DCPD, DACC, SRHR Stakeholders meeting, Protection cluster, Gender TWG, DHMT, Health Workers, Health Facility Orientation meetings, and Child Protection and TWG on Ending Child Marriage. The information gathered from these meetings assisted YONECO staff in understanding the district's activities.



INSTITUTION MANAGEMENT AND ORGANIZATION



Outcome 7.1: Increased resources for YONECO to effectively deliver services.

Activities on capacity building of board and staff on strategic resource mobilization and management

1. With support from UNFPA, YONECO successfully trained 20 peer educators from the areas of Traditional Authority (TA) Kaphuka, Kachere, and Chilikumwendo in Dedza district under the Action for Teen Mothers and Adolescent Girls Project. The objective was to influence positive behavior change among the youth, and the peer educators are anticipated to enhance Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) skills among young people in their local communities.

2. YONECO conducted training for 12 district stakeholders from Dedza and Mchinji as SASA! Trainer of Trainers (ToT). The goal was to empower them to train community facilitators using the SASA! tool, promoting gender equality and empowering adolescent girls and women in their respective areas. Consequently, these ToTs will further train a total of 60 community cadres to facilitate Gender-Based Violence (GBV) awareness and prevention sessions at the community level.

3. YONECO organized a training session for 30 health service providers (23 females, 7 males), from various health facilities in Lilongwe, such as Area 18, Bwaila, Kang'oma, Kawale, Biwi, and Chilinde. The training, held at Msamba Catholic Centre, focused on delivering youth-friendly health services, specifically in the areas of HIV testing services (HTS), family planning, STI screening and treatment, among others. The aim was to improve the provision of these services to adolescent girls and young women in specific communities in Lilongwe district, aligning with the Connect Malawi-Plus project's objectives to reduce stigma and negative attitudes towards Youth-Friendly Health Services (YFHS) among health service providers.

Outcome 7.2: Diversified sources of funds for programs and operations

1. YONECO received a donation of 40 kilograms of fortified soya-enriched flour from the Ntcheu District Social Welfare Office. This generous contribution played a crucial role in improving the nutritional well-being of children enrolled in YONECO's Early Childhood Development (ECD) Centre in Ntcheu Boma.

2. YONECO successfully launched Y-Net Investments, a multi-business company designed to generate income for its services. Currently producing cooking oil (Mkomya) from groundnuts, the company also encourages youth involvement in agricultural industries. With plans to expand into soya beans and sunflowers, this venture serves as a model for steering nonprofits away from donor dependence, fostering independence, and ensuring a more focused approach.

3. YONECO FM continued its broadcasting initiatives, featuring both regular programs and those sponsored by clients. The generated income was reinvested to support various radio operations. Facilitating 38 meetings with the marketing department and potential clients, including Hills Associates, A.A.M Furniture, and Fed Engineering, YFM attracted business interest. With follow-ups planned for further engagements, the Resource Mobilization and Partnership Development team secured MWK613,395.44 from MERA.

4. The technical department monitored radio signals and their quality to ensure clients experienced seamless advertising on YFM in surrounding districts. This assurance aimed to instill confidence in customers regarding their business collaboration with YFM. By producing 5063 radio programs and 7,139 jingles for both the institution and partners, YFM successfully generated funds.

5. YONECO, through the Business Development and Resource Management team, actively pursued the development of new proposals, contributing to increased funding for the institution. In 2023, YONECO successfully secured funding for projects like BEFIT, currently being implemented in Chitipa and Rumphi.

Outcome 7.3: Improved Human resources and administration systems

1. Utilizing the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) established with public and private universities in Malawi, YONECO successfully accommodated a total of 428 interns (197 Males, 231 Females) throughout 2023. Hailing from institutions like Catholic University, LUANAR, MUBAS, MAGU, University of Malawi, and Mzuni, these interns contributed to various sections of the organization and they also gained valuable experience and exposure to diverse aspects of their respective fields, aligning with their areas of specialization.



2 The organization successfully engaged various stakeholders through in-person resource mobilization sessions, fostering collaboration and soliciting support for Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and HIV/AIDS interventions within the framework of Road Traffic. District staff actively participated in the

1. development of project ideas and proposals, emphasizing the importance of assisting vulnerable children.

YONECO conducted a comprehensive supervision session with staff, extending the evaluation to interns and office assistants. The purpose was to assess work progress and staff performance,

1. identifying areas for improvement and encouraging a proactive approach in seeking support when necessary. The district staff compiled and submitted the District HR Tracker as part of their routine activity, providing updates on the district staff's status.

YONECO facilitated the distribution of contracts and organized the signing process involving Peer Educators (PEs) and officers as part of the transitions within the CDC Key Population initiative. This effort was extended to all Key Populations (KPs) in the district, ensuring accurate and complete

RESEARCH, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Outcome 8.1 Established & functional M & E system

1. A delegation from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Secretariat conducted a monitoring exercise and project evaluation in Zomba district, focusing on the HIV and AIDS Youth Helpline Project implemented by YONECO in collaboration with Youth Advocates. The project's goal was to offer young people information on HIV/AIDS, Sexual Reproductive Health (SRHR), counselling, and referral services through a toll-free helpline number 393. The visit not only facilitated the evaluation of the project's effectiveness but also provided valuable insights that helped YONECO enhance its Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) structures.

2. As part of its commitment to strengthening the Monitoring and Evaluation framework, YONECO carried out an End-line survey for the SADC Youth Helpline 393 Project. The survey aimed to gather comprehensive data from a cohort of 461 young individuals residing in specific communities targeted as primary beneficiaries during the project's dynamic implementation phase. Focused on assessing the project's impact among young people, the survey involved participants aged between 17 and 24 years in areas including Magomero, Bimbi Health Centre, Chopi Health Centre, Matawale Health Centre, Chamba Health Centre, and Mayaka Health Centre.

Outcome 8.2 Enhanced YONECO capacity in conducting research

1. Under the CDC Key Population Project, YONECO collaborated with a consultant to develop a DHIS2 platform for efficient data management. Following system testing, data entry was commenced. YONECO further conducted data verification sessions with Peer Educators (PEs) to assess the progress and accuracy of data entered into the registries.

2. YONECO's Mangochi office participated in a joint monitoring activity organized by UN Agencies, focusing on the five Traditional Authorities (T/As) where the Peace Building project is implemented. This initiative aimed to evaluate and measure the impact of the project, involving the collection of data during the monitoring exercise for subsequent evaluation and analysis.

3. The YONECO IT team helped to reconstruct the CFM system, integral for managing data within the Helpline Department. This system facilitates information sharing across different sections within the institution and with external stakeholders. The M&E team, in collaboration with the Helpline team, consistently reviewed cases on the system to ensure the integrity of the data.

4. The YONECO M&E team provided support to Youth Advocates Zimbabwe and

1. the Southern African Development Community (SADC) in conducting an end-line survey for the 393 Youth Helpline project, which was implemented in Zomba from 2021 to 2023. The survey aims to assess the project's contribution to enhancing the knowledge of young people regarding HIV and STIs.

Outcome 8.3 Enhanced documentation, learning and sharing of YONECO Programs

1. YONECO district offices consistently compiled and submitted weekly reports, plans, and institutional technical reports throughout 2023, adhering to this requirement for the entire year. Additionally, daily updates were shared, and Monthly Individual Reports and Plans were compiled and submitted by the district offices.

2. YONECO's Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) team continued to enhance their capabilities through the use of online data management platforms. Platforms such as <https://cfm.yoneco.org/>, <https://www.partnerreportingportal.org/>, and info@yoneco.org empowered YONECO to present and share data in an organized and meaningful manner, contributing to efficient information dissemination.

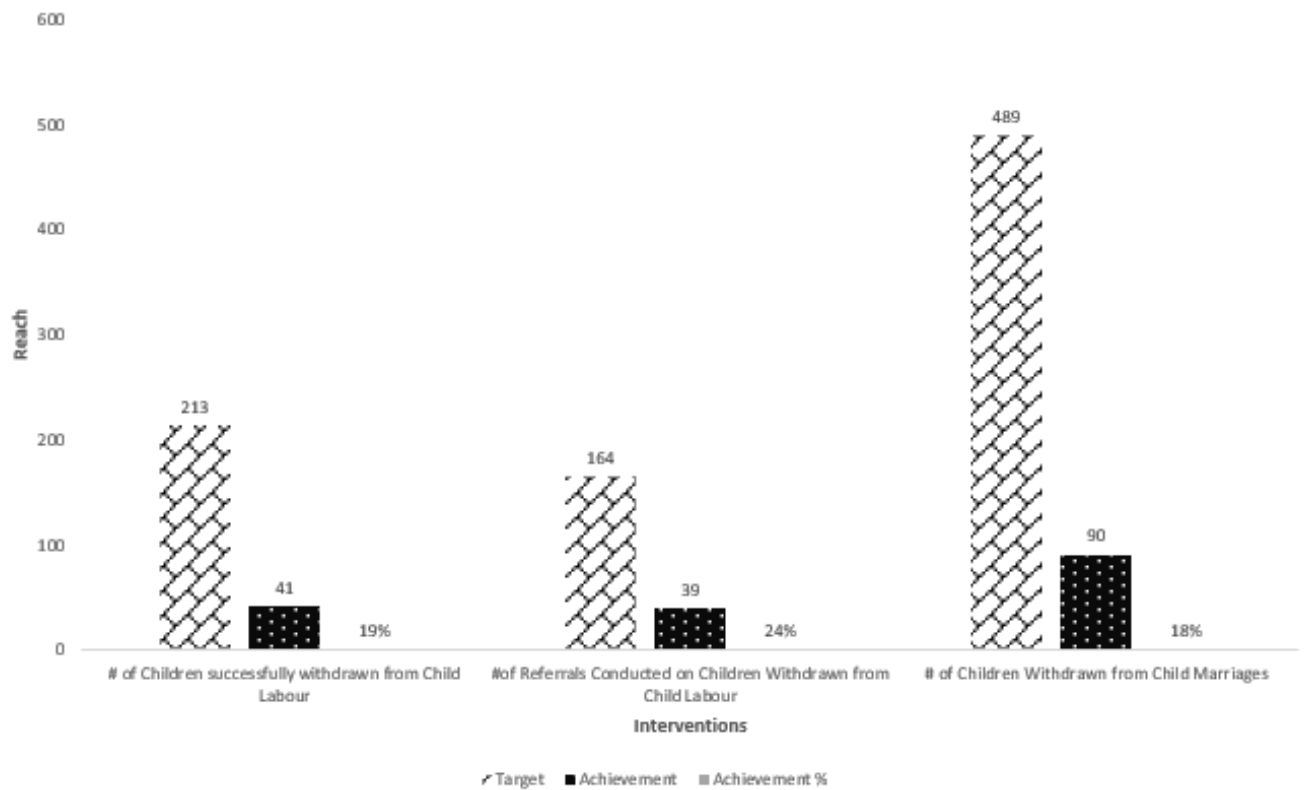
3. The YONECO Media and Networking Team compiled and shared newsletters throughout 2023. These newsletters served as a valuable documentation tool for capturing success stories achieved by the institution, facilitating their dissemination to stakeholders.

4. YONECO's Mangochi office actively participated in a UN joint monitoring activity focused on the five Traditional Authorities (T/As) where the Peace Building project is being implemented. Organized by UN Agencies, this monitoring initiative aimed to assess and measure the impact of the project, with collected data shared for subsequent evaluation and analysis.

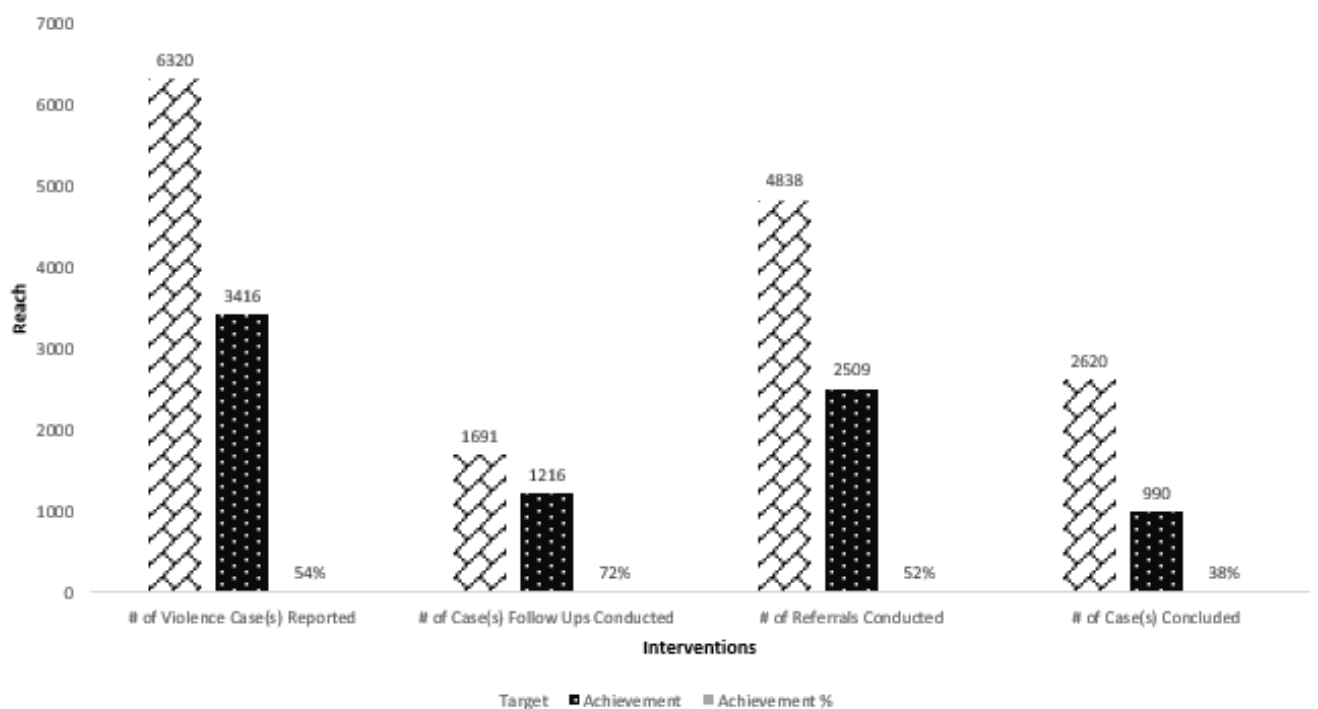
5. Throughout 2023, YONECO effectively managed its presence on social media platforms, including Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Through active engagement with a nationwide audience, the organization disseminated crucial messages addressing topics such as Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH), Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Child Abuse, and Climate Change. YONECO also maintained communication with beneficiaries through its website, www.yoneco.org, showcasing a dedication to widespread outreach.

Annex.

YONECO 2023 ENHANCE CASE MANAGEMENT FOR CHILD DEVELOPMENT & PROTECTION

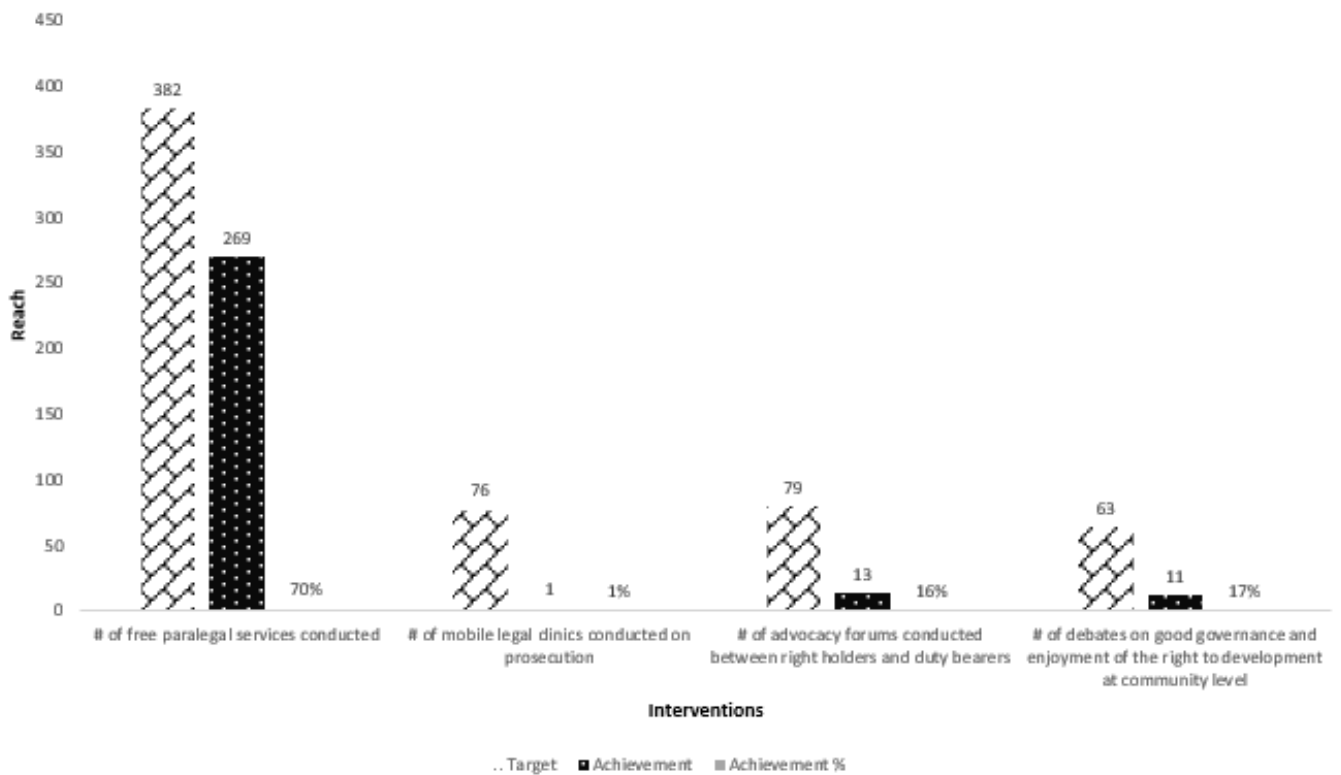


YONECO 2023 GENDER AND WOMEN

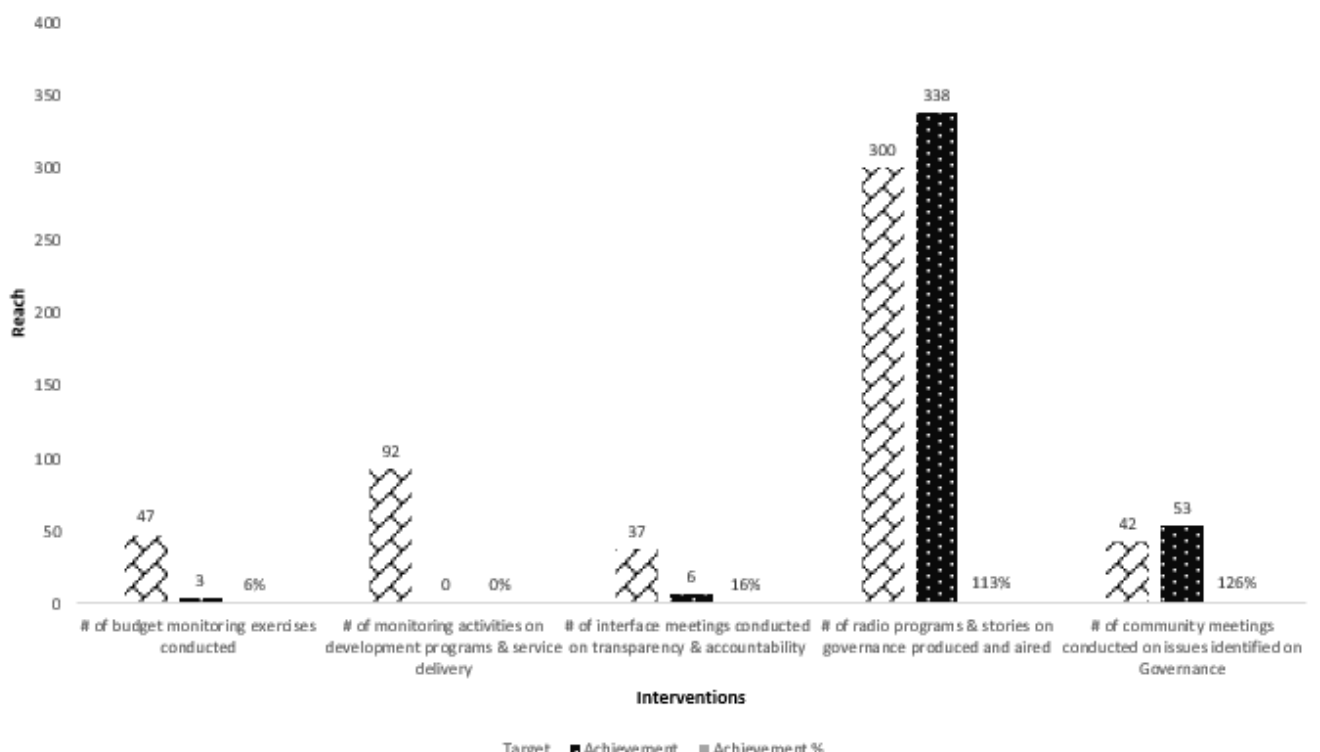


Annex.

YONECO 2023 GOVERNANCE & DEMOCRACY: BUILD CAPACITY OF COMMUNITIES TO EFFECTIVELY PROMOTE GOOD GOVERNANCE AND DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES

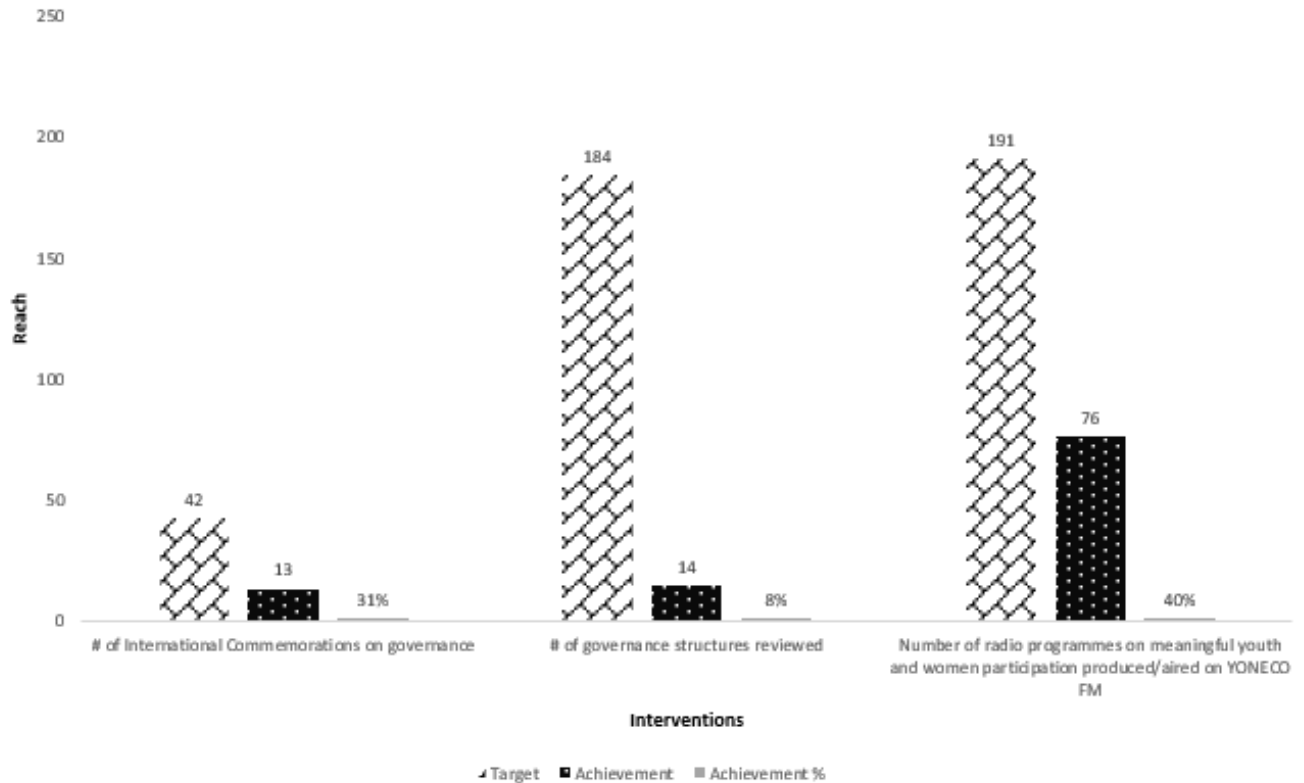


YONECO 2023 GOVERNANCE & DEMOCRACY: PROMOTE MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT OF RIGHTS HOLDERS AND DUTY BEARERS IN DEVELOPMENT PROCESSES

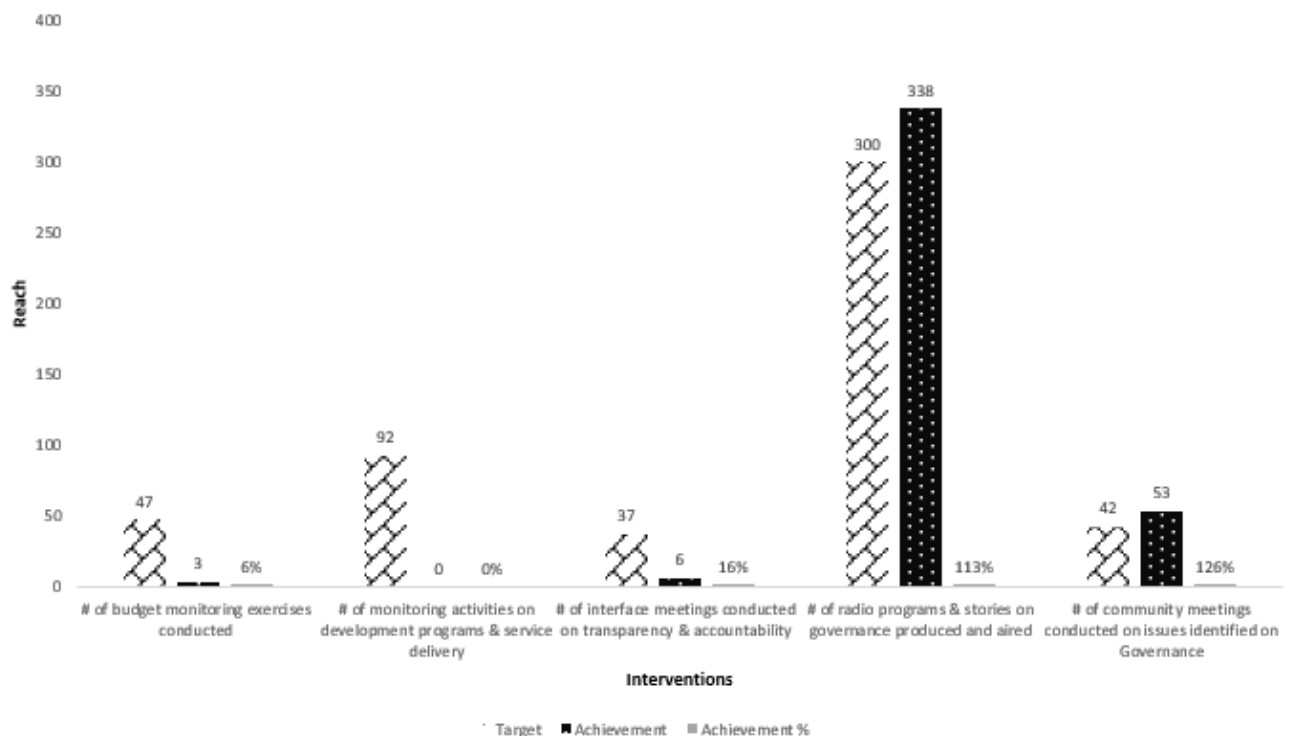


Annex.

YONECO 2023 GOVERNANCE & DEMOCRACY: INCREASE PARTICIPATION OF YOUTH, WOMEN AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN GOVERNANCE PROCESSES

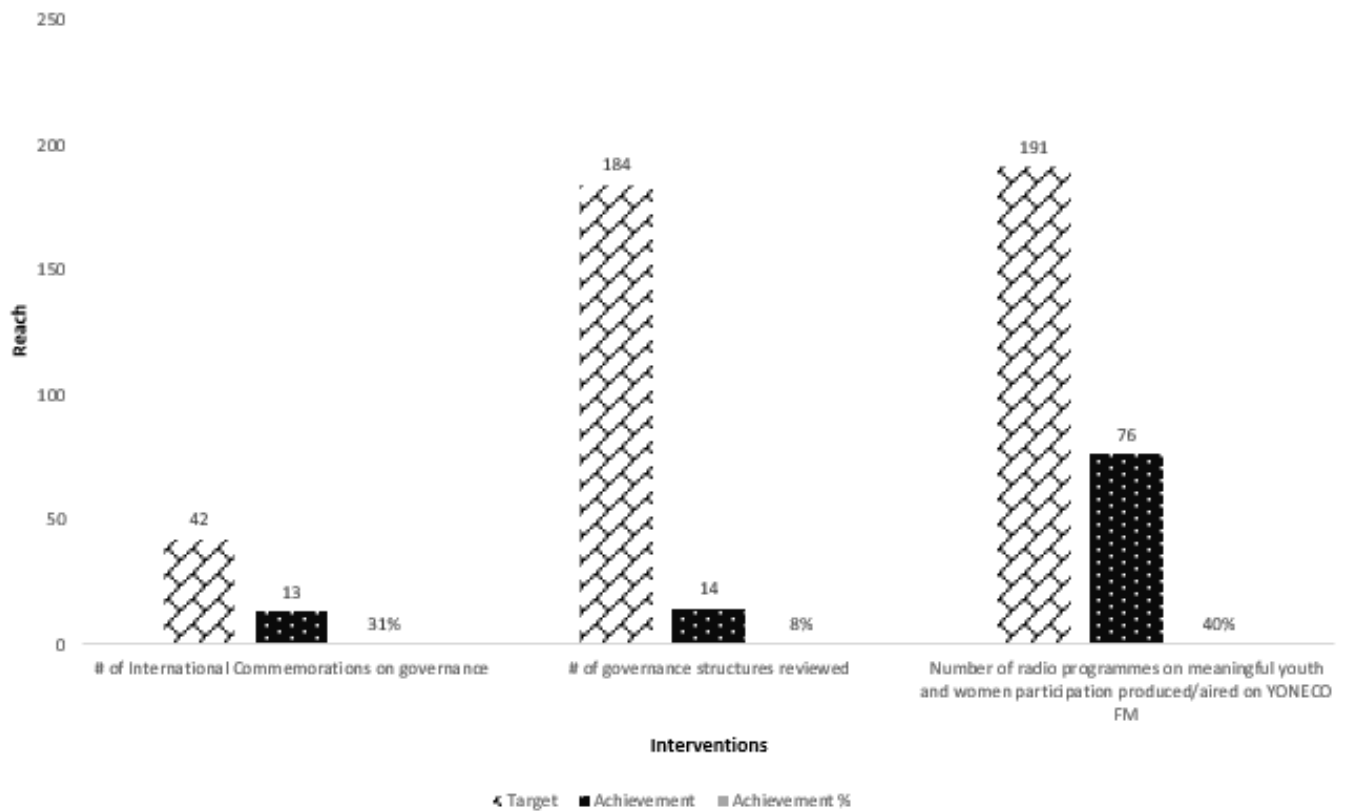


YONECO 2023 GOVERNANCE & DEMOCRACY: PROMOTE MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT OF RIGHTS HOLDERS AND DUTY BEARERS IN DEVELOPMENT PROCESSES

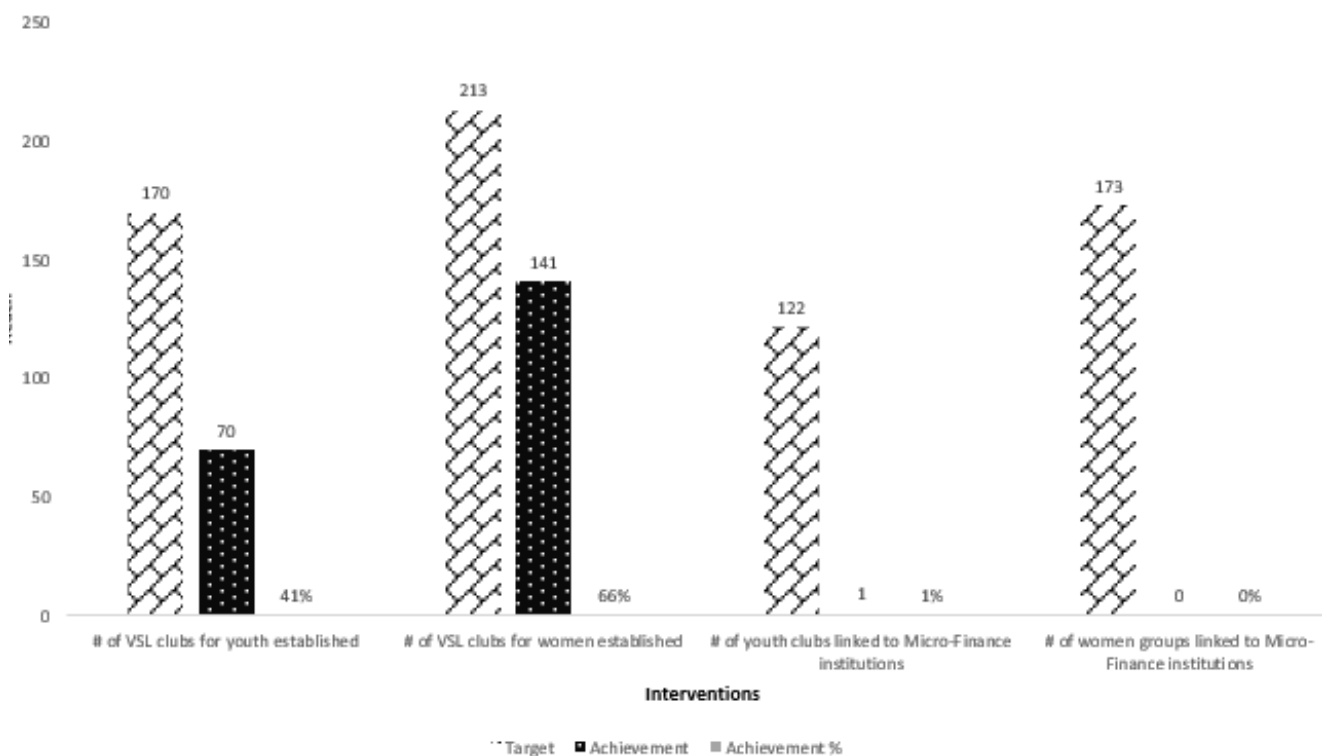


Annex.

YONECO 2023 GOVERNANCE & DEMOCRACY: INCREASE PARTICIPATION OF YOUTH, WOMEN AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN GOVERNANCE PROCESSES

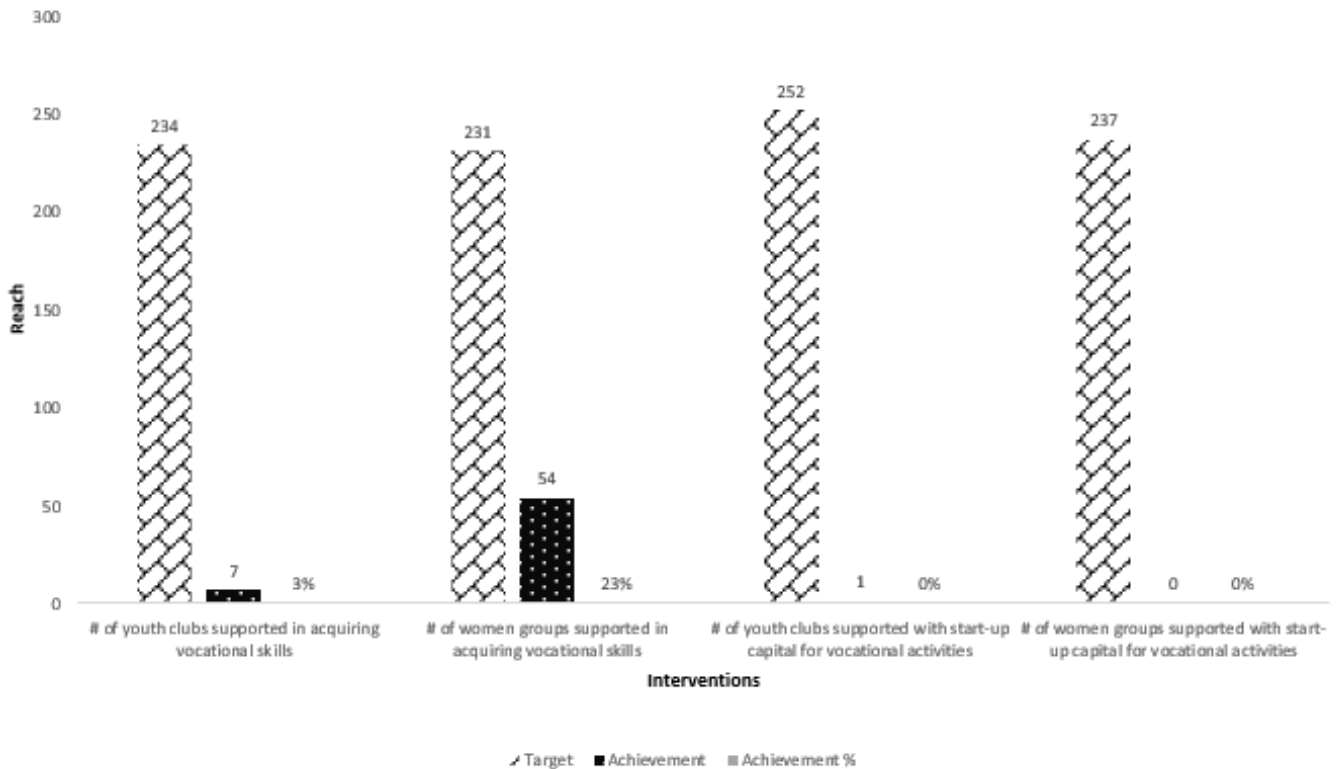


YONECO 2023 - YOUTH DEVELOPMENT: BUILD CAPACITY OF YOUTH & WOMEN FOR ECONOMIC SELF-RELIANCE



Annex.

YONECO 2023 YOUTH DEVELOPMENT: FACILITATE ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT INITIATIVES FOR YOUTH & WOMEN



YONECO 2023 CLIMATE CHANGE

