



YONECO VOICE

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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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SCAN ME



Visit our website to learn more about our work

About Us

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...



with MacBain Mkandawire

Dear Reader,

The carnage on the roads of Malawi has reached a shocking state with deaths on a daily basis. A date will not pass without hearing someone has died on our roads. We seem to be comfortable with the situation and wondering what the Government and all duty bearers are now doing about this. What is more shocking and disturbing is that there are rumors that drivers have a malpractice of paying for a road traffic offense before they commit it. This malpractice is called 'Kudula GR' (General Receipt). So when you reflect on it, this malpractice is really doing "kudula" as it really cuts the lives of productive people who could have served the nation in different capacities. One wonders why our Traffic Police and key stakeholders have been silent on the matter. We need to put this on check and reinforce the rules as they are. While we are asking the duty bearers to be responsible enough, rights holders also need to rise up and speak on this. As rights holders, our right to life is at risk when we are packed like bags of tomatoes. Unless rights holders demand their rights in full, we could be moving in circles. "Kudula GR" is really cutting the lives of productive Malawians.

No one will remain youthful forever and aging is something that we all need to reflect on because whether we like it or not, we will grow old. The unfortunate part is that when people get old in our societies, we associate them with so many other issues including witchcraft. As we celebrate the International Day for Older Persons on 1 October under the theme "Aging with Dignity: The Importance of Strengthening Care and Support Systems for Older Persons Worldwide", let us reflect on how we are treating our elderly people. As YONECO, we would like to applaud the work being done by "Mai Mbambande" in supporting the elderly people in the family settings. We like it as you call them boys and girls and they indeed are our boys and girls of those days. We want to encourage that there is a lot of wisdom and knowledge that we can tap from. MANEPO is another organization we need to congratulate as they focus on community care for the elderly. We need to join hands to ensure that the elderly enjoy their rights to the fullest.

As you are reading this newsletter, many thanks to all our teachers and we celebrate the World Teacher's Day falling on October 5, 2024 under the theme: Valuing teacher voices: Towards a new social contract for education". Let us all raise the voice of the teacher to be treated with dignity and support for them to deliver the best. The unfortunate reality is that everyone went to the hands of the teacher including the most powerful president and yet the teacher is not given the attention they need.

Mental health has become a death toll currently with suicide being common. Productive persons are dying every day. The 2024 World Mental Health Day has been dedicated to the workplace realizing that in the world there are lots of issues that create mental challenges including and not limited to pressure of work, meeting deadlines and inadequate supervisions. The common language of burnout is an issue and we need to reflect on them. It is Time to Prioritize Mental Health in the Workplace is the theme for the year and we need to reflect on how we can deal with this aspect. Both employers and employees need to manage the expectation of each other, avoiding procrastination, using the time productively, being focused and balancing life and work properly. We need to manage relationships.

We have heard several people commenting on the young girls as “ka Yoneco” meaning they are the property of YONECO. We have seen these comments on social media and we have been so proud to be associated with the girl child in Malawi. We thank all of you that have positively influenced our work and we will not tire of the girl socially, psychologically and economically. As International Day of the Girl Child comes with Girls' vision for the future, we want to particularly draw everyone's attention to special groups of girls living on the street, the girl child being exploited in public entertainment places, in travel and tourism and children in child labour especially child domestic labourers. This should not just be for the elite girls and the girl child in difficult circumstances are in majority.

Disasters have become a way of living these days. In the last 10 years, it has been disaster after disaster and it's either we have floods or we have drought. 13 October is International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction under the theme: “The role of education in protecting and empowering youth for a disaster-free future.” This brings to light the critical aspect of education as the central tool for preventing and mitigating disaster impact. Simple actions like tree planting at school, monthly school environmental awareness days, cleaning our surroundings and promoting clean energy are going to make a huge impact on the individuals. We therefore invite everyone to the international Day of disaster risk reduction.

Malawi celebrates Mother's day on the third Tuesday of the month of October and our mother's are looking forward to it. The day this year falls on Tuesday, 15th October takes many faces, forms and engagements. The mother is such a critical person who is at the center for sharing the love and spending sleepless nights at all levels. Let us give the mothers the love they need and support them. While this is the case, we request that we celebrate responsibility as we move forward. Happy Mother's day.

ETERNAL BONDS: A TRIBUTE TO MOTHERS

By Gracium Mkonda
Chithonje



We are a kind that believes in the eternal,
A spirit that chose to manifest as woman,
Revealed through mothers—a love so pure,
unmatched,
Like dawn breaking over the stillness of night,
Chasing shadows away with gentle light,
In their warmth, we find comfort and solace,
A sanctuary where our hearts are safe from strife.

Not every woman who gives birth is a mother,
But those who are, by heart and soul,
Mend broken dreams with tender hands,
Caring for the helpless, lifting them beyond
bloodlines.
Their laughter dances like a soothing melody,
While their tears flow as rivers of strength, steady and
free,
Fostering resilience in the darkest of times,
Their spirit ignites a flame that forever shines bright.

As true as mother's love,
This is a dependable haven, YONECO,
Nestled beneath the Ndangopuma Hills in Zomba.
When its name is whispered, fear takes flight,
Shivers of dread ripple through the veins
Of those who prey on the rights of children,
For a mother's heart stands unwavering, ready to
fight.



*Sustaining Institutional Growth and Independence
for Social and Economic Development of Youth,
Women and Children.*



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Advocacy

SBCC

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Empowering Young Farmers with Agribusiness Management Skills



Insert: Field Officer for YONECO in Nsanje district engaging with some of the youth farmers.

As part of the organization’s broader efforts to promote youth development in Malawi, YONECO conducted agribusiness management sessions targeting young farmers from Traditional Authority (TA) Malemia’s area in Nsanje district.

The sessions aimed at boosting young people’s farming operations and equipping them with essential skills for managing growth and future business endeavors.

The sessions targeted both small scale crop and livestock famers of which a good number of them were young female farmers.

One of the young farmers, Chikondi Phiri, who attended one of the sessions explained that young people have all it takes for them to thrive in agribusiness. Chikondi pointed out that young people’s energy and innovativeness are their key assets that could enable them to succeed.

“Young people simply need to get the necessary support in terms of building their knowledge and skills as well as financial

support for them to access high quality inputs,” explained Chikondi. We are thankful to YONECO and these capacity strengthening efforts will go a long way in shaping our future as farmers:

Integrating young farmers into commercial agriculture is key in boosting the country’s economic gains through the sector and reducing youth unemployment.

YONECO Initiates Youth Mental Health Outreach Activities



Insert: YONECO Helpline Counsellors delivering a mental health session with the youth at Chinamwali CCAP Church in Zomba.

Compelled by the increasing mental health challenges among young people in Zomba, YONECO, through its Tithandizane Helpline Services Department, has embarked on outreach activities targeting the youth through various establishments including schools and religious spaces.

On 15 September, 2024, YONECO counsellors facilitated a mental health outreach session at Chinamwali CCAP Church in the district.

The session, which aimed at demystifying mental health issues and promote health-seeking behaviors, reached a total of 45 young people. The youth were encouraged to seek help when they face challenges.

This year, Malawi has registered a total of 276 suicide cases of which 240 involved males and 36 involved females.

YONECO Gears to Promote Young People's Health through Sports



Insert: Young people who were engaged posing for a group photo after the sports for social change session in Machinjiri, Blantyre.

On September 19, 2024, YONECO officers visited Area 6 football ground in Machinjiri-Blantyre to engage youth involved in football activities. The session highlighted the importance of physical health for mental well-being while promoting community bonding through sports.

Participants expressed enthusiasm for football but raised concerns about a lack of essential equipment like balls. This shortage has led to a decline in team membership from 38 to 25 players. YONECO aims to support these young athletes by addressing equipment shortages and encouraging healthy lifestyles through sports participation.

**Call 393 to get
information and
referrals on HIV
and SRHR**



Insert: Some of the adolescents who were reached during the session

Promoting Healthy Choices Among Adolescents

In an effort to empower adolescents to make informed choices, YONECO officers on September 24, 2024 engaged with 10 male teens at the Alimwene school grounds in Chitipa district. The session was focused on safe decision-making and building positive relationships, while also addressing common challenges such as peer pressure and the impact of negative influences.

During the session, YONECO officers emphasized the importance of recognizing that unchecked behaviors can lead to significant consequences, including academic failure and strained family relationships. The officers highlighted how engaging in risky behaviors could not only jeopardize their educational prospects but also affect their mental health and overall well-being. The aim was to encourage participants to reflect on their actions and consider the long-term implications of their choices.

To combat these challenges, adolescents were encouraged to seek guidance from trusted adults, such as parents or teachers. The officers stressed the value of developing assertiveness skills, which empower young people to stand firm in their decisions and resist negative peer pressure. This promotes a proactive stance among teens, equipping them with tools to navigate social situations effectively and make choices that align with their values and goals.

Empowering Youth Through Vocational Skills Training in Mulanje District



On September 24, 2024, YONECO officers in Mulanje district provided tailored technical support in the selection process for the Social Cash Transfer program at Traditional Authority Ndanga. The initiative is specifically targeting young individuals who have successfully completed their Malawi School Certificate of Education but face financial barriers that prevent them from pursuing further education.

Insert: Some of the youths from Mulanje, T/A Ndanga who came for the selection process for the Social Cash Transfer Programme in the district being taken through the process by government counterparts.

The selection process involved inviting beneficiaries to present their educational certificates for registration with the Technical Entrepreneurial Vocational Education Training Authority (TEVETA). This registration is crucial as it enables these young people to access bursaries for various vocational training programs. By facilitating this process, YONECO aims to ensure that deserving youth can gain the skills necessary for successful employment or entrepreneurship.

This initiative is part of the broader SP GEAR (Social Protection for Gender and Economic Resilience) project, which focuses on enhancing employability and promoting financial stability among youth. The vocational training offered through TEVETA is designed to equip participants with practical skills in various trades and professions, thereby addressing the skills gap in the labor market. As these young individuals acquire vocational training, they are better positioned to secure employment or start their own businesses, contributing positively to the economic development of their communities.

UPCOMING INTERNATIONAL DAYS

OCTOBER 2024

- 1 Oct:** International Day for Older Persons.
- 5 Oct:** World Teacher’s Day.
- 10 Oct:** World Mental Health Day.
- 11 Oct:** International Day of the Girl Child.
- 13 Oct:** International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction.
- 15 Oct:** International Day of Rural Women.

The Inspiring Journey of Alfred Mwanda

Alfred Mwanda is a young man whose years of hard work have finally been rewarded through the realization of his dream of obtaining a Bachelor’s Management Information Systems. Alfred’s story depicts transformation, determination, and inspiration.

In 2014 Alfred was just a student from Eneya village in Ntcheu district. Alfred’s interest in school started to significantly change after he began to frequent YONECO’s Ntcheu Drop-In Center (DIC).

It is during this time that YONECO had introduced an innovative project called ‘Responding to Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health and HIV/AIDS through ICT’ with funding from UNICEF. The project was aimed at providing adolescent boys and girls with vital information on Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) through online platforms. To achieve this goal, YONECO conducted orientation sessions on the use of the computers and other basic skills to the target group.



Insert: Alfred learning computer skills during his days at the Drop -in Centre in Ntcheu.



Insert: Alfred posing in his graduation gown after obtaining his bachelor’s degree in MIS.

For Alfred, this project was a turning point. The engaging lessons and hands-on experience in technology unveiled new possibilities and gave rise to an interest in the sphere of ICT. Eventually, Alfred transformed into a dedicated student with an ambition to achieve one goal – to be an ICT specialist.

After years of dedication and hard work, Alfred has earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Management Information Systems from the Malawi College of Accountancy (MCA).

Alfred is just one of the many young people who have benefitted from the programmes of YONECO in Malawi, symbolizing the transformative impact which the organization’s initiatives can have on young people’s lives.

INTERNSHIP PROFILES

MERVIS KADZUWA

I am Mervis Kadzuwa, an ambitious Journalism and Mass Communication student at Pentecostal Life University (PLU). Currently doing my internship with YONECO radio (YFM), in Zomba and I am looking forward to acquiring practical skills and hands on experience on the media industry. During my internship I am attached to the newsroom department where I am mainly responsible for writing news stories and producing and co-hosting radio programs. I am passionate about writing and theatre.



My name is Owen Chirwa, and I am both a police officer and a fourth-year student at the Malawi University of Science and Technology (MUST), where I am pursuing a degree in African musicology. This multidisciplinary field encompasses various areas, including sound engineering, audio production, music performance, and instrument crafting, among others.

OWEN CHIRWA

Currently, I am undertaking an internship at YONECO FM, where I serve primarily as a radio presenter and programs producer. One of my key responsibilities is hosting and producing the "TIDZIWE MBIRI" program, which airs every Tuesday at 11:30 AM.

This internship is crucial for me, as it provides me with practical training that complements the theoretical knowledge I have gained in the classroom. Being immersed in this dynamic environment is allowing me to bridge the gap between academic concepts and real-world applications. The experience I am gaining here will be invaluable in enhancing my curriculum vitae and equipping me with the necessary skills to succeed in the media sector.

YONECO ECD Centres Welcome New Learners



16th September, 2024 marked the commencement of the 2024/2025 academic year and YONECO's Early Childhood Development (ECD) Centres across Malawi have welcomed new learners who have joined the establishments.

These were moments of mixed emotions, both sadness and excitement, as parents and guardians bid farewell to their children as they were dropping them off for the first time at the centre.

The trained caregivers have expressed their commitment to laying the groundwork for the children's brighter futures.

Early Childhood Education is a central component under YONECO's Child Protection and Development Programme. YONECO recognizes Early Childhood Education as fundamental to a child's future success.

Insert: Some of the new learners that have enrolled at one of the Drop-in Centres engaging in a play session with their tutors.

Over the years to date, YONECO has been managing as well as facilitating the establishment of ECD centres in various parts of Malawi particularly in rural and remote parts of the country where parents cannot afford to pay high fees.

Among other advantages, Early Childhood Education aids in children's brain development so much that their cognitive abilities as well as social and emotional skills are properly nurtured and help them acquire lifelong learning abilities. Early Childhood Education further provides socialization opportunities for children to learn how to interact and develop interpersonal skills.

YONECO Advocates for Positive Parenting

The event brought together various stakeholders dedicated to advocating for children's rights.

At the YONECO pavilion, officers engaged visitors about the organization's mission and services in child protection. They highlighted initiatives such as the helpline for reporting abuse and the Aunt Stella toolkit, which provides guidance on various issues affecting youth.



Insert: Helpline counsellor for YONECO Triza Chimasula engaging women during one of the positive parenting sessions in Zomba district.

In a drive to enhance positive parenting, YONECO has intensified parenting activities in the area of Traditional Authority (T/A) Malemia in Zomba district.

The participants are also being encouraged to seek more information from YONECO's Helpline Counsellors through the organization's toll-free Child Helpline #116.

The event also addressed underlying causes of child abuse prevalent in fishing communities like Mangochi, where poverty often leads to child labor. YONECO promotes economic empowerment through savings programs and income-generating activities aimed at reducing vulnerability among families.

The sessions are aimed at equipping parents and guardians of adolescent boys and girls with relevant knowledge and skills for raising children to successfully transition into adulthood.

So far, a total of 483 parents and guardians have been reached from four villages across the area. The sessions will be scaled up to all villages that are within the vicinity of TA Malemia's area.

Celebrating Day of the African Child in Mangochi District

On September 24, 2024, YONECO officers participated in the Day of the African Child commemoration at Nkope Primary School in

Participants at the event expressed concerns about cultural practices that are leading to early marriages in the district. The day featured performances by students, reinforcing the call for inclusive education and community support for children's welfare.

YONECO Employs Door-to-Door Campaign to Promote School Enrollment



Before the opening of the 2024/2025 academic year on 16 September, 2024, YONECO carried out a door-to-door campaign around the area of Traditional Authority (T/A) Malemia in Nsanje district, urging parents and guardians to send their children to school.

Insert: YONECO officers captured doing door-to-door campaign in this file photo.

Many children do not return to school after end of academic term holidays. In addition to this, children who reach the school going age are usually not enrolled to start their academic journeys in good time.

Parents were also encouraged to enroll their pre-school children to the available Early Childhood Development

(ECD) centres in order to stimulate their cognitive and mental development.

The initiative reached over 180 households in various villages around the area.

By reaching out directly to community members, YONECO aims to reinforce the message that education is a fundamental right and a cornerstone for children's brighter futures.

YONECO and WOLREC Advocate for Increased Reporting of Gender-Based Violence in Chikwawa District



On September 25, 2024, YONECO collaborated with the Women's Legal Resource Centre (WOLREC) and local stakeholders, including police representatives, to conduct a Gender-Based Violence (GBV) awareness session at Tiyanjane Community-Based Organization in Chikwawa district. The event attracted 304 participants, comprising 148 females and 156 males, and aimed to empower community members to report abuses they witness or experience.

The session was prompted by a prior sensitization meeting on national laws facilitated by the court and police. Key discussions highlighted the reluctance of men to report GBV due to societal norms equating masculinity with strength. Many men fear that service providers will favor female victims, leaving male survivors without support. Additionally, some women conceal their husbands' abusive behaviors to maintain their marriages, perpetuating cases of defilement.

Insert: Community members who participated in the GBV awareness session at Tiyanjane Community Based Organisation (CBO) in Chikwawa district

YONECO emphasized that men have equal rights and encouraged them to report any GBV incidents confidentially through the Tithandizane National Helpline. The police assured participants that reports would be handled discreetly by the Victim Support Unit. They also reminded attendees that failing to intervene in witnessed abuse could lead to legal consequences.

Furthermore, women were urged to report any harmful acts against stepdaughters, highlighting the long-term repercussions of such abuse on victims. The session concluded with an emphasis on available toll-free numbers for reporting GBV, operational 24/7.



2024

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR OLDER PERSONS

Ageing with Dignity: The Importance of Strengthening Care and Support Systems for Older Persons Worldwide. Population ageing is a major global trend reshaping societies worldwide.

YONECO Promotes Support Services for GBV Survivors in Mulanje



Insert: Participants who attended the demand creation awareness session in Mulanje district.

Demand creation for support services for Magwira underlined the importance of survivors of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) reporting GBV cases saying that this is of paramount importance as many translates into more offenders being people suffer in silence due to their lack of brought to book and face the repercussions knowledge about the comprehensive thereby sending a strong warning to array of resources that are available to potential perpetrators.

As such, YONECO through its office in Mulanje dedicated the month of September, 2024 to the promotion of various services which government departments, YONECO and other partners provide to survivors of GBV.

“I am grateful that YONECO is not just encouraging people to report GBV but also telling us where to go and the kind of support they we will get from there,” said Mumderanji Magwira. “This approach will greatly encourage many people to report as we are now seeing the actual importance of reporting to us as individual women.”

Mumderanji Magwira, is one of the female village heads in Mulanje district who has commended the approach of promoting a culture of reporting GBV as well as raising awareness on the available support services for survivors of GBV.

Call 393 to get information and referrals on HIV and SRHR

Targeted Awareness Campaigns to Prevent SEA in Shire Valley Transformation Programme (SVTP)



Insert: YONECO officers engaging with workers from the Shire Valley Transformation Programme during the awareness raising campaign on SEA.

Construction is among the high-risk industries for incidents of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) of women and girls.

It is against this backdrop that YONECO, in partnership with various partners has been conducting joint Gender-Based Violence (GBV) awareness campaigns in Chikwawa district targeting the areas where water canals are being constructed under the Shire Valley Transformation Programme (SVTP).

The awareness campaigns are targeted at both community members and construction workers who are reached through separate sessions.

Social protection is a critical component that needs to be fully considered in construction projects as they tend to breed SEA as workers tend to take advantage of young women and adolescent girls from surrounding communities.

YONECO’s District Manager for Chikwawa, Mable Makondetsa, emphasized that her office is mainly focused on preventing incidences of GBV hence the intensification of the sensitization campaigns.

TITHANDIZANE HELPLINE SERVICES www.yoneco.org

Seek Support today

CHILD HELPLINE	YOUTH HELPLINE
116	393
GENDER BASED VIOLENCE CRISIS LINE	DRUG & SUBSTANCE ABUSE HOTLINE
5600	6600
CALL NOW	

FAO Partners YONECO in Forest Land Restoration Project



Insert: YONECO and FAO team pictured here during the inception meeting at FAO offices in Lilongwe.

YONECO has entered into a one-year partnership with the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) to implement a project that is aimed at promoting forest land restoration activities in schools and communities around Mpira Dam's catchment area in Ntcheu district.

Among other interventions, the project will provide training and technical support to the youth to achieve generational restoration.

On 24 September, 2024, FAO convened a project inception meeting that was attended by officials from YONECO and the Department of Forestry.

During the meeting, FAO shared with the partners an overview of the established

modalities and procedures that are in place to ensure that the project should achieve its intended objectives.

In his opening remarks, FAO's International Administration's Officer, Antony Nyagadza, expressed his confidence in YONECO's capabilities and stated that his organization is hopeful that YONECO will deliver with the expected diligence.

Mpira Dam supplies water to Ntcheu, Balaka and Liwonde towns. However, deforestation and loss of vegetative cover around the dam's catchment areas has been affecting its capacity.



The real voice of the youth, women and children



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LET'S GROW WITH US

Ntcheu District Council Spearheads Campaign on Waste Management



Insert: District stakeholders pictured sweeping the dump site at Ntcheu bus terminal during the exercise.

YONECO joined various stakeholders in a clean-up exercise that was organized by Ntcheu District Council in a bid to maintain a clean, healthy and sustainable community.

During the exercise, the patrons cleaned surface water drainages, emptied waste bins and picked litter around Ntcheu town.

The patrons noted with regret that too much use of plastic materials which are not properly disposed of. The patrons observed that the users of various public places like markets and bus terminals just

dump refuse anywhere leading to more pollution and outbreaks of diseases that are caused by poor sanitation.

The initiative also doubled as an awareness raising activity on waste management and environmental conservation.

YONECO is geared to helping Ntcheu District Council in realizing its aspirations of maintaining a clean and healthy environment.



Challenging Sociocultural Beliefs that Aggravate Mental Health Problems

The recent data released by the Malawi Police Service shockingly reveals that 276 people have committed suicide in Malawi between the months of January to June 2024. The statistics indicate that 86.96 % of all reported suicide cases involve men.

There are several factors attributed to various social cultural factors including the belief that mamuna salira (real men don't cry). This prevents men from seeking help. Consequently, all the issues which the men face are bottled up inside them until a day when they are stressed up so much that everything becomes too much to handle. This pushes them to consider suicide as the only way out.

Dyeratu Market in Chikwawa is among the areas in Malawi where people have also been taking their own lives. In response, YONECO organized a mental health awareness campaign to promote health-seeking behaviours among community members especially men.

The campaign debunked the notion that 'men don not cry' by showing the detrimental impact it has on the welfare of men and adolescent boys in various settings across Malawi.

YONECO highlighted the severity of common mental health issues, including depression, stress, and anxiety which are mostly characterized by sadness, isolation, and changes in behavior.

The participants singled out economic hardships which they alleged that they lead people into huge debts, marital and relationship problems, as well as drug and substance abuse. In addition, some community members also listed the increase of chronic diseases as another factor that is exacerbating suicide incidences.

Tithandizane National Helpline Services

Youth Helpline
CALL 393
For FREE
Smart choices for young people

Drug & Substance Abuse Hotline
CALL 6600
For FREE
to seek support on drug & substance abuse

Child Helpline
Let the Child Speak
CALL 116
For FREE
to report any form of Child Abuse

GBV Crisis Line
Speak up and Stop Violence
CALL 5600
For FREE
to report any form of Gender Based Violence

Other Services
Free & Confidential

Telephone Counselling
Safe to Esc counselling
Self-Help materials
Case Management
Safe Places for survivors of GBV and MVM

Emails
drug@yoneco.org
help@tithandizanehelpline.org
gov@yoneco.org
www.tithandizanehelpline.org

Visit our website: www.yoneco.org

YONECO Engages BTOs on Male Involvement in Family Planning



YONECO counsellors connected with Bicycle Taxi Operators (BTOs) who ply their trade around Mpondabwino Market in Zomba on issues pertaining to male engagement in family planning.

The deep-rooted perceptions that reproductive health is a woman's domain prevents most men from supporting family planning. The BTOs who were engaged explained that sometimes men fear that the use of contraceptives could be a gateway for women to get into extramarital affairs.

Insert: Some of the bicycle taxi operators who were reached with family planning information at Mpondabwino market in Zomba district.

The counsellors and the Bicycle Taxi Operators concluded that men should openly discuss with their partners, support, approve, and use contraceptive.

After the fruitful dialogue, the YONECO team distributed condoms to some of the TBOs who participated in the session.

Standing Voice, YONECO Campaign for Rights of People with Albinism



Insert: Members of YONECO Cultural Troupe conducting a play during the awareness campaign at Mayaka market in Mulanje district.

In an ongoing initiative to promote that the rights and welfare of people with albinism, YONECO in collaboration with Standing Voice conducted a series of awareness campaigns in Mulanje and Zomba districts.

The campaign used participatory theatre to engage community members and highlight the importance of recognizing the abilities of people with albinism and respecting their rights.

During one of the sessions, the Chairperson for Mayaka Market, Jonas Thomas, avowed to ensure that his committee is collaborating with authorities to ensure that all people, including persons with albinism, are freely participating in various economic activities within the marketplace.

In October, 2024, YONECO and Standing Voice have also lined up more awareness campaigns on rights of people with albinism in various parts of Ntcheu and Machinga districts.

The awareness campaigns are being conducted under Ufulu Wanga Project which is being funded by the European Union.





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