



YONECO VOICE

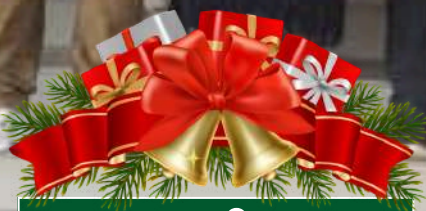


Monthly Newsletter

January 2025

Issue 1

Volume 12



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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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C/o Youth Leadership Development Centre
Along M3 Zomba-Lilongwe RD
Next to Calvary Family Church
P.O Box 471, Zomba,
Malawi.

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 Readers,

We begin our entry into 2025 with a sad reality that Malawi registered 1,487 births on 25 December, 2024. If this number were to be consistent throughout the year, it signals that the nation's population could soon be out of control. We are already struggling to produce sufficient food, supply clean water, provide medicine for the sick, and ensure adequate teachers, teaching materials and suitable learning spaces. Malawi is very small as compared to Zambia but we have almost the same population. Can the population development unit facilitate teasing out some of the issues that we need to seriously reflect on as a country. The population in light of climate change needs to be seriously reviewed.

We seem to be challenged as Malawi is currently accommodating over 3,000 Mozambican refugees which translates to thousands of people who are in need of food, accommodation, Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) facilities, education, health care and social protection services. With the hunger situation, will Malawi contain the situation? This, when one views it, is a result of tensions that have been tamed and escalated to the current levels. More concerning is the rumour about the 6,000 convicted offenders having escaped lawful custody. Their next destination, as they are evading re-arrests, is not and cannot be known but they could be heading to Malawi and we are not sure of how strong our border checks are. Learning from the 1977 – 1992 civil war in Mozambique, a lot of guns and bullets found their way into Malawi because we were a bit loose on who was going where and with what items. We hope our security teams are on the look out.

Regulation of any sector is an important component and we do welcome the regulation from NGORA. Daily Times of December 18 cites that **NGO Authority Tough on Partnership**. This is a long awaited regulation on localisation and we do welcome the move. **NGORA says all INGOs working in Malawi will be required to work with local NGOs**. However, do we have a fine print to know how 'local' is defined? It is saddening to see the mushrooming of local NGOs that are headquartered in Europe, America etc. The double standards which a good number of INGOs are playing is to simply add Malawi at the end of their institutional names and by doing this, they say they have become Malawian all in the name of

evading the requirements of localization. While this is true of how we define local NGOs, it's important to holistically address localisation. Localisation is about addressing the imbalances and inequalities in the global humanitarian system and Charter for Change has commitments made by the signatories to the charter which include direct funding (25% of the aid should be direct funding to local actors), partnerships that should be genuine and effective, transparency (making public what is being given to local actors), avoiding recruitment that would negatively impact on the local actors capacity, advocacy to emphasize the importance of local actors in humanitarian work, addressing issues of subcontracting and inequality in decision making meaning the local actors should be on the tables where decisions

are being made, providing robust organisational support and capacity building and promoting the work of local actors. We continuously see deviations from these and what we are not sure is if the toughness NGORA is talking about caters for some of these elements. We believe it's not enough because aid has to be decolonised and we need to have clear principles of partnerships and localisation. We hope that this development will revisit the way aid is managed at various levels of management.

We cannot discuss the January 2025 newsletter without reflecting on Cyclone Chido. We hope to appreciate DODMAs leadership which indicated lots of preparedness, awareness raising, prepositioning of the items among others. We need to maintain the momentum and ensure that we are ready within the systems.

As we get into the New Year, we encourage each one of us to reflect on our new goals, new strategies and new approaches.

Happy New Year to you all.

The graphic displays four smartphone screens with the following text:

- Screen 1:** Youth Helpline
CALL 393
For FREE
Smart choices for
- Screen 2:** Drug & Substance Abuse Hotline
Seek Help
CALL 6600
For FREE
to seek support on drug &
- Screen 3:** Child Helpline
Let the Child Speak
CALL 116
For FREE
to report any form of
- Screen 4:** GBV Crisis Line
Speak out and Stop Violence
CALL 5600
For FREE
to report any form of Gender

To the right of the screens is a banner for **Other Services** which includes:

- Telephone Counselling
- Face to Face counselling
- Social Rehabilitation
- Case Management
- Safe Places for survivors of GBV and VAWC.

Below the banner, it says **Free & Confidential**. At the bottom right, contact information is provided:

- Emails: drug@yoneco.org and help@tithondizonehelpline.org

YONECO BATTALION: A SONG OF HOPE

By Gracium Mkonda
Chithonje

A song of hope, so bold and clear,
From hearts that conquer doubt and
fear.

To guide the lost, to heal the pain,
And bring the light to break the chain.

A new year calls, with strength anew,
To fight for justice, to see it through.
With steady hands and hearts of fire,
We rise to meet our shared desire.

United in purpose, we stand as one,
Chasing the dawn, until it's won.
Against all odds, we'll hold our
ground,
With courage, love, and hope
unbound.

To the future we raise our eyes,
With dreams that soar beyond the
skies.

Together we march, our spirits bright
For YONECO's mission, a beacon of
light.





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



YONECO CULTURAL TROUPE

Experts in: **Community Mobilization**

Advocacy

SBCC

For bookings

Contact:

The Executive Director or The Station Manager

Yoneco FM

P.O Box 471

Zomba, Malawi.

Tel: 01 525 764 - 01 526 199

Mobile: +265 888 919 623

Email: stationmanager@yoneco.org



www.yoneco.org

YONECO, AYA Rally Machinjiri Youth for Cleanup Initiative



Insert: Young people Active Youth Association (AYA) with their counterparts from Machinjiri posing for a group photo.

YONECO in partnership with Active Youth Association. (AYA) and various youth clubs mobilized young people from Machinjiri for a clean exercise at South Lunzu Health Centre in Blantyre.

Apart from creating a hygienic environment, the exercise is also expected to nurture a sense of community and civic responsibility among the youth.

The youth commended the initiative and indicated that it is important for them to take lead in such activities. One of the young people who participated in the exercise explained that the youth have the energy and urgency, what they need to be properly empowered to do the needful.

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**TITHANDIZANE
HELPLINE SERVICES**

Seek Support today

<p>CHILD HELPLINE</p> <p>116</p> <p><small>GENDER BASED VIOLENCE CRISIS LINE</small></p> <p>5600</p>	<p>YOUTH HELPLINE</p> <p>393</p> <p><small>DRUG & SUBSTANCE ABUSE HOTLINE</small></p> <p>6600</p>
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Toll-Free
Line

SADC YOUTH
HELPLINE
Call or SMS
393



For FREE
Smart Choices
for Young People.

Private & Confidential
Service 24 hours

help@helpline.org



Thondane Helpline Services



@thondanehelpline

Promoting Holistic Child Development in Chikwawa



Insert: Some of the children who patronize the Drop in Centre (DIC) in Chikwawa captured here playing.

Child development is one of YONECO's strategic goals whose related interventions are being implemented in all the organization's district offices across the country including Chikwawa where various key activities are being conducted to contribute towards child growth, protection and development.

YONECO's Chikwawa Child-Drop-In-Centre (DIC) offers early childhood education, host children for play sessions and child protection.

Children from the surrounding areas participate in these sessions as they relax and reduce stress through various recreational activities.

Children's activities at the centre also include reading, writing, creative drawing which allow children to have fun and engaged.

The centre has also introduced a variety of additional activities such as games and group projects that are aimed at imparting the learners with problem-solving skills.

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**TITHANDIZANE
HELPLINE SERVICES**

Seek Support today

<p>CHILD HELPLINE</p> <p>116</p> <p>GENDER BASED VIOLENCE CRISIS LINE</p> <p>5600</p>	<p>YOUTH HELPLINE</p> <p>393</p> <p>DRUG & SUBSTANCE ABUSE HOTLINE</p> <p>6600</p>
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Perivoli Schools Trust Graduates 52 ECD Caregivers in Chikwawa



Insert: Chikwawa district social welfare officer together with YONECO and Perivoli Schools Trust staff and graduates after the graduation ceremony.

On 7 December, 2024, two of YONECO’s Early Childhood Development (ECD) caregivers were among 52 graduates who received certificates after successfully completing a two-year Teachers Training programme that was organized by Perivoli Schools Trust in the Chikwawa district.

The Perivoli Schools Trust partnered with Chikwawa District Social Welfare Office to enhance the skills and knowledge of caregivers from the areas of Traditional Authority (T/A) Mlilima and Katunga.

During the ceremony, Chikwawa District Social Welfare Office commended Perivoli Schools Trust for its financial and technical support, emphasizing the importance of ECD as a crucial aspect in the development of Malawi.

The office also acknowledged the important contributions of private schools and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) like YONECO which, the office said, are dedicated to child development by enhancing early childhood development and learning interventions.

“I would like to expressed my gratitude to Perivoli Schools Trust for the initiative. As a district, Chikwawa needs more partnerships to improve the quality of education, particularly during the transition to primary schools,” explained the District Social Welfare Officer.

On its part, Perivoli Schools Trust expressed their appreciation for the government’s support in allowing them to work within the district and continued to

say that they are confident that the knowledge imparted to the caregivers will make a positive impact on the community.

The organization expressed its commitment to continue offering similar programs in the district to advance Early Childhood Development.

Brenda Mphundi, one of the graduate caregivers from YONECO, shared her excitement about receiving the certification. She viewed it as recognition of their capability to deliver quality education. she also extended her gratitude to Perivoli Schools Trust for providing the training free of charge, pledging that they would apply the skills and knowledge gained during the program in their work with children.

Out of all the 52 graduates, four were males and 48 were females.

BEFIT Program Empowering Inclusion

Experiencing injury or illness can be particularly challenging for children, often leaving them feeling isolated. Meet Edwin Ng'ambi, a 7-year-old boy from Mibanga Primary School in Chitipa district.

Edwin lost one of his limbs in an accident during his early years. His father, Mr. Ng'ambi, shared that Edwin struggled with feelings of nervousness when he started school, leading him to frequently miss classes.

However, everything changed in January 2024 when Mibanga Primary School launched tablet-based lessons under Building Education Foundations Through Innovation and Technology (BEFIT). Edwin quickly developed a passion for using the tablets and engaging with educational content in the tablet, which significantly boosted his confidence and helped him forge friendships.

Edwin's teacher, Miss Mtambo, stated that she was surprised to see Edwin coming to school often; opening up and playing with his friend.

"I was surprised to see Edwin playing with his friends; he no longer misses classes. He used to be alone, but now he's part of the group," she narrated.

His friend, Mike Msukwa, added that Edwin was a shy boy who did not like playing with his friends. "It was hard to talk to Edwin before, but now we chat and play together. We always look forward to tablet lessons," said Mike.



Insert: Edwin Ng'ambi captured here interacting with the tablet during a session.

The BEFIT program is playing a crucial role in helping learners like Edward overcome challenges and build meaningful connections with their peers. Through the exciting educational content, the program has helped in transforming learners' social experience and promoting inclusion within school the communities.

The BEFIT is a self-paced, adaptive learning programme that is being implemented by the Ministry of Education through the Directorate of Open Distance and E-learning (DoDEL) and Directorate of Basic Education (DBE) to enhance literacy and numeracy skills among learners in foundational classes through the use of tablets. The program aims to reach all government primary schools in Malawi.



Tithandizane National Helpline Services

Child Helpline
116

GBV Crisis Line
5600

Youth Helpline
393

Drug & Substance Abuse Hotline
6600



Free and confidential services

Email us

drug@yoneco.org

help@tithandizanehelpline.org

gbv@yoneco.org

Visit www.tithandizanehelpline.org

Our Services

- Telephone Counselling.
- Face to Face counselling.
- Social Rehabilitation.
- Case Management.
- Safe Places for survivors of GBV and VAWC.



Irish Aid
Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

trócaire



youth advocates

YONECO
Youth Net and Counselling



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Ariyo’s Journey from Poverty to Entrepreneurial Success through SLG Initiative

Ariyo Richard is a 53-year-old father of nine who hails from Mbenje Village in the area of Traditional Authority (T/A) Ngabu, Nsanje district. As a standard 2 school dropout, Ariyo has been unable to get a stable employment to ably support his family. As a subsistence farmer, Ariyo and his family have also been affected by issues of food insecurity due to the impact of climate change and number of devastating cyclone-induced floods.

Thus, Ariyo was encouraged to join a newly established 14-member Tiyamike Savings and Loans Group (SLG) that was initiated in his area on 29th September, 2024. The SLG was established to enhance the impact of Social Cash Transfer Programme (SCTP) by promoting saving and investing among the beneficiaries.

Ariyo joined Tiyamike SLG and deposited his first shares of MK 12, 0000 and managed to access a soft loan of MK 20,000. Thus, the loan enabled Ariyo and her husband to venture into the business of selling fish. The fish selling business has proved to be lucrative. On weekly basis, Ariyo makes a profit of about MK 24, 000 which MK 2,000 higher than the loan she accessed from her savings and loan group.

The proceeds from the business have seen Ariyo buying 2 goats as an additional income generating venture, paying tuition fees for children who are still schooling as well as brining food on the table for her family.



Insert: Ariyo Richard has managed to transform his life through entrepreneurship

“This is not the first time for me to benefiting from the social cash transfer programme. However, there is no any notable socioeconomic change to show. This time around, the concept of SLG has worked wonders as we are now able to buy shares, access loans from the groups and venture into small-scale businesses,” explained Richard.

Ariyo also intends to strengthen the floor and walls of her house by plastering them with cement to ably withstand the frequent floods that often devastate Nsanje district.

The integration of SLGs into SCTP is an initiative under the Building Resilience through Advancement of Women and Girls’ Functional Empowerment Project with funding from UNICEF, European Union and the government of Ireland. As an implementing partner which is providing tailored support in the programme, YONECO has been supporting the process of establishing SLGs, and strengthening the capacity of beneficiaries in business management as well as managing social protection issues.

Noria Motivates Grandchildren to Overcome Adversity



Insert: YONECO Field Officer for YONECO in Nsanje, Victor Majola interacting with Noria Likisi at T/A Mbenje in Nsanje district.

64-year-old Noria Likisi has emerged as an inspiring figure in her community. Noria hails from the area of Traditional Authority (T/A) Mbenje in Nsanje district. Noria is dedicated grandmother to her two grandsons Vincent and Joseph aged 16 and 17 respectively.

Noria faced significant challenges after the loss of her daughter who survived by the two grandchildren. Despite living with a disability and lacking a stable income, she was determined to continuously support her two grandsons. With no any reliable source of income, Noria relied on her resourcefulness to ensure that the two boys received an education. The financial burden of school fees loomed large, and her disability prevented her from engaging in physical labour. In spite of all the challenges, the grandsons excelled in their Malawi School Certificate of Education (MSCE) Examinations. Vincent passed the examination with 17 and Joseph scored 18 points.

Despite the two boys' academic excellence, Noria faced a new challenge: the inability to afford their tertiary education. Fortunately, Noria and her grandchildren were identified and registered for support through Skills Development Support for Youths from Social Cash Transfer Beneficiary Household Programme. The initiative is being supported by UNICEF under Social Protection for Gender Empowerment and Resilience (SP-GEAR) Project. The project is being implemented by the Malawi government in partnership with various institutions including TEVET and YONECO that are providing tailored technical support.

Through the initiative, Vincent and Joseph have been registered to pursue vocational courses at any technical college of their choice. This opportunity is expected to will open new doors for the two, allowing them to develop skills that would enable them to earn a decent living in the near future.

Saving and Loan Group Transforms Challenges into Opportunities



Insert: Field Officer for YONECO in Chikwawa engaging with Dolesi after the meeting

A remarkable journey of transformation unfolds through the life of Dolesi Moyenda, a 53-year-old single mother of three from Traditional Authority (T/A) Makhwira's area in Chikwawa district.

Dolesi has always faced challenges to provide various basic needs for her family. Today, as the chairperson of the Tiyanjane Saving Loans Group (SLG), Dolesi exemplifies the powerful impact of smart financial management through the Social Protection for Gender Empowerment and Resilience (SP-GEAR) project which is being funded by UNICEF, European Union and the government of Ireland.

Dolesi's sad story took a positive turn when she became a beneficiary of the Social Cash Transfer Programme (SCTP) distribution being implemented by the government in various districts including Chikwawa. The financial assistance has been supportive to her family by providing much-needed resources to improve their living conditions and invest in their future.

With the support she is getting from the SCTP, Dolesi made strategic decisions that not only benefited her immediate family but also inspired other community members.

One of Dolesi's significant accomplishments was the purchase of a goat. This goat represents more than just livestock; it symbolizes hope and opportunity. As she nurtures her goat, she looks forward to the additional income and the nutritional benefits it will provide her family. Her commitment to sustainable living and animal husbandry demonstrates her understanding of the long-term advantages of proper resource management.

In addition to the livestock venture, she used part of her cash transfer to buy two bags of cement in preparation for a house renovation project. Her desire to create a safe and comfortable living environment for her children has become a reality, thanks to her dynamic investment decisions. Dolesi's home is transforming, and so is her family's future.

Recognizing the importance of making wise financial choices, Dolesi passionately advises other cash transfer beneficiaries to use their funds carefully.

"The money is a tool for change," she says. "If we misuse it, we lose the chance to improve our lives," added Dolesi.

Through her experiences, she encourages others to think critically about their purchases, highlighting that every penny spent should pave the way for a brighter future.

Dolesi's leadership in the Tiyanjane SLG has also fostered a spirit of collaboration and empowerment among her peers. She actively shares her knowledge and experiences, encouraging other women in the community to pursue their dreams and take control of their financial well-being. She believes that together, they can build a stronger, more resilient community.

YONECO Trains Community-Based Gender Champions in Chikwawa



Insert: YONECO Field Officer, Jones Makandanje engaging with the community-based gender champions in Chikwawa district.

YONECO and Chikwawa District Gender Office have strengthened the capacity of community-based gender champions from the areas of Traditional Authority (T/A) Chapananga and Ndakwera in Chikwawa district.

The initiative aims to drive grassroots change and ensure that the progress being made towards gender equality is sustained.

The community-based gender champions play a vital role in supporting beneficiaries of Social Cash Transfers Programme (SCTP) to invest and manage their finances towards economic stability.

The orientation session for the community-based gender champions was conducted under Social Protection for Gender Empowerment and Resilience (SP-GEAR), a three-year project which is being implemented with financial support from UNICEF.

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

“UNITE! Invest to prevent violence against women and girls”.

Call 5600 for FREE to report any form of gender-based violence

Tithandizane National Helpline Services

- Youth Helpline**
CALL 993
Smart choices for young people
- Drug & Substance Abuse Helpline**
CALL 6600
For FREE to seek support on drug & substance abuse
- Child Helpline**
CALL 116
For FREE to report any form of Child Abuse
- GBV Crisis Line**
CALL 5600
For FREE to report any form of Gender Based Violence

YONECO Empowers Bar Owners to Detect, Report GBV



Insert: Key Populations Officer for Chikwawa, Dickson Mbetewa (in blue trousers) making his presentation.

YONECO conducted a training session with bar owners from Ngabu, Chikwawa to impart them with necessary skills for identifying various forms of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in a bid to ensure that such cases are given timely and necessary responses.

YONECO conducted the training sessions alongside officials from Chikwawa Social Welfare Office and the Malawi Police Service.

The three institutions urged bar owners were also urged to put in place strict measures for restricting the underage from frequenting their drinking joints. The participants were also reminded of their responsibility to ensure the safety of all individuals, including sex workers, who patronize their establishments.

In his remarks, YONECO's Key Population Officer for Chikwawa, Dickson Mbetewa, urged the bar owners to encourage sex workers to use condoms to protect themselves or their clients from contracting HIV.

The session was conducted on 7th December, 2024 in the backdrop of various activities which YONECO and various stakeholders conducted during the 16 Days of Activism against GBV.

Tithandizane Helpline Services Empowers Women against GBV

On 9 December 2024, YONECO's through the Tithandizane Helpline Services held a Gender Based Violence (GBV) engagement session with 22 women from Matama Village in the area of Traditional Authority (T/A) Mwambo, Zomba.

The session was aimed at engaging women to voice out on GV-related challenges that affect them in a bid to strategize ways of addressing the issues. In addition, women were also engaged to properly recognize and report various forms of GBV that occur at household and community levels.

The Tithandizane Helpline officers further encouraged the women to form Savings and Loans Groups (SLGs) which have proved to be one of the effective ways of empowering women economically.



Insert: Women who took part in the GBV engagement session from Matama Village in Zomba.

YONECO Facilitates CFM Training Under Malawi Drought Response Project



Insert: Participants posing for a group photo after the 2 day training session in Blantyre.

From 17 to 18 December, 2024, YONECO facilitated a training session on management of Complaints and Feedback Mechanisms (CFMs) and handling of reported cases under ECHO Malawi Drought Response Project.

The training aimed at strengthening the capacity of the project’s implementing partners to effectively engage with affected populations through robust accountability mechanisms.

Additionally, the training further aligned implementing partners with global best practices, ensuring compliance with standards and enhancing coordination.

The training session is expected to contribute towards ensuring that complaints and feedback are handled professionally and on time thereby promoting community empowerment and improving service delivery.

The training was attended by officials from the following implementing partners: Save the Children, Self-Help Africa, Care Malawi, FOCCAD, Eagle Relief and CADECCOM.

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

Chikwawa DACC Commends YONECO for Enhancing HIV Services Access



Insert: Representatives from various partners and departments who attended the meeting in Chikwawa.

Chikwawa District AIDS during the 2024 event for the 2024 World AIDS Coordinating Committee (DACC) implementation period. Day.

has hailed YONECO for its role in contributing towards the YONECO presented some Following the presentation, the increasing access to HIV services figures on the total number of DAAC Chairperson hailed among men and key populations. community members who YONECO for the have been enrolled in the accomplishments achieved in The commendation was made by program and the number of the year and commended the the chairperson of the committee people who have been organization for regularly during a review meeting that was supported to access various updating stakeholders on held in the district on 18 services. Some of the services project status.

December, 2024. The review which the targeted community meeting was organized by members accessed include HIV Among other challenges, it YONECO to provide updates on the self-testing, Sexual Gender- was indicated that some progress of Addressing Unmet based Violence (SGBV) people cover long distances Needs in HIV Testing Services for counselling, as well as Sexual to access services like PrEP, Men and Key Populations which is and Reproductive Health (SRH) frequent stockout of some SRH being funded by the Centres for commodities like condoms and commodities, turnaround Disease Control and Prevention lubricants. times (TAT) for viral load (CDC). results.

The meeting was further During the meeting, the DACC notified that YONECO, through The meeting was concluded members were briefed on the the project, supported various with the development of project summary, intervention HIV prevention meetings, 'Know innovative strategies for framework, comprehensive Your Service Providers' addressing the various package, key achievements and sessions, orientation of bar challenges that were some challenges encountered owners, as well as supporting presented by the partners.

YONECO for Meaningful Participation of Women in Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention



Insert: Part of the community groups that attended the meeting

In a bid to promote women's involvement in conflict resolution, YONECO has been facilitating community dialogue sessions focusing on the importance of having women as equal partners in peacebuilding efforts.

The sessions are aimed at getting a buy-in from community leaders and other gatekeepers to fully embrace the principles of gender equality. The goal is to promote meaningful engagement of women on issues that affect them particularly in peacebuilding and conflict prevention. The engagements are expected to contribute towards addressing the issue of underrepresentation of women in various community development and social protection structures.

The meetings looked at issues that prevent women from participating in decision making processes and finding strategies for addressing the factors.

Among other factors it was pointed out that some women feel less empowered to fully participate let alone taking charge. Some leaders also indicated that some religious and cultural elements disempower and undermine the capabilities of women.

On the contrary, some members highlighted significant counterexamples that challenge and undermine the competences of women. Participants cited the exemplary leadership of Traditional Authorities (T/A) Mkhumba and Kaduya who are both women.

The sessions also emphasized on the need to encourage women to take active roles in peace committees and recognizing the importance of inclusivity in peacebuilding conflict resolution.

The engagement meetings were conducted under Sustainable Community Women Movement for Peacebuilding and Response in Humanitarian Response Project. The project is being funded by the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) through UN Women. The initiative seeks to enhance women's participation in peacebuilding and conflict resolution, ensuring their voices and perspectives are integral to fostering sustainable peace in their communities.



YONECO Hosts 'Know Your Service Provider' Session in Chikwawa



Insert: Stakeholders posing for a group photo after the Know-Your- Service Provider session at Hope Lodge in Chikwawa district.

YONECO organized a 'Know Your Service Provider' session in Chikwawa where officials from the Police, Prison Service and the judiciary presented to the public how their respective offices function.

The session, that was held on 11 December 2024, was initiated to promote the uptake of services by building trust and understanding between communities and various service providers in the district.

During this event, officials from the Police, Prison Service, and the judiciary explained to the public how their respective offices function. The officials dispelled the various misconceptions which prevented people from seeking support from the service providers. YONECO also extended an invitation to peer educators and key populations who often report various challenges they face to access services including health care.

The session aimed to address the gaps and challenges faced by law enforcers and peer educators when dealing with the Key Population.

"This marks an important step towards increasing the uptake of services especially among key populations," explained Dickson Mbetewa - YONECO's Key Population Officer in Chikwawa.

The activity is among the various interventions which YONECO is implementing in Mwanza, Chikwawa and Chiradzulu under Addressing Unmet Need in HIV Testing Services (HTS) for Men and Key Populations for HIV/AIDS Services Through Effective Delivery Models in Malawi. The project is being implementing with financial and technical support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

HELPLINE SERVICES
 Seek Support today

CHILD HELPLINE	YOUTH HELPLINE
116	393
GENDER BASED VIOLENCE CRISIS LINE	DRUG & SUBSTANCE ABUSE HOTLINE

YONECO FM Signs MoU with LUANAR



Insert: YFM Station Manager, Rodrick Mwale together LUANAR Vice Chancellor after signing the MoU.

YONECO FM Radio Station (#YFM) has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR) to enhance the development, accessibility and utilization of agricultural innovations in a bid to promote a dynamic agriculture-driven economy in Malawi.

In his remarks, YFM's Station Manager, Rodrick Mwale, stated that the MoU is in line with the radio's key mandate as issues of agriculture affect the youth, women and children in various ways.

"Through this partnership, YFM is committed to bridging the gap between agricultural innovation and the communities we serve,"

explained Rodrick Mwale – YFM Station Manager.

YONECO FM is a communications unit of YONECO that was established in 2014 to serve and amplify the voices of the youth, women and children.

YFM - The real voice of the youth, women and children.





The real voice of the youth, women and children



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CONTACT

Communications and
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LET'S GROW WITH US

YONECO Embarks on TIP Sensitization Campaign in Phalombe



Insert: Some of the men who ply their taxi business at the trading centre were also reached with the awareness messages.

On 18 December 2024, YONECO conducted sensitization sessions about Trafficking in Persons (TIP) in Phalombe district as various factors including the increased cost of living and hunger have made community members in borderland areas vulnerable to the vice.

The current socio-economic challenges have made communities more willing to take risks in search of better opportunities thereby being susceptible to trafficking.

The awareness sessions aimed to empower community members with the knowledge and skills to protect themselves from exploitation. In addition, the sessions are expected to contribute towards enhancing community resilience and building an informed community that ably identifies and report TIP activities.

Phalombe district is located in the Southern Region of Malawi and it is bordered by Zomba to the North and North East, Mulanje to the South and the other part is surrounded by the Republic of Mozambique. As such, the geographical position and other factors like high levels of poverty and increased demand for farm workers especially during the rainy season makes the district a significant hotspot for TIP

The communities were made aware of various provision that are contained in the country's TIP Act of 2015.

As a whole, Malawi is a transit, destination and source of trafficked persons hence the need for concerted efforts to effectively prevent and combat the vice.



Tithandizane National Helpline Services

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116**

**GBV Crisis
Line 5600**

**Youth
Helpline 393**

**Drug &
Substance
Abuse
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