

Youth Net and Counselling

YONECOVOICE

YONECO Monthly Newsletter

February 2020

Vol.10.

Issue 2.



Mangochi Peer Educators Commended for their Diligence

Ρ7



YONECO Orients Young People on Smart Agriculture

P 10



Youth Groups Benefit from Agri-business Activities

YONECO VOICE - Monthly Newsletter

YONECO VOICE - Monthly Newsletter February 2020

About Us...

Our Vision

A self-reliant, healthy, and resilient society that respects human rights and democratic values

Our Mission

Empowering the youth, women and children, promoting good health, human rights, and democracy, adapting and mitigating effects of climate change; and conducting research for evidence based programming and advocacy

Editor's Note

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the second edition of YONECO Voice Monthly Newsletter in the year 2020.

This edition has extensively tackled a number of youth development initiatives. We have covered our youth agribusiness activities. This is an important undertaking as lack of proper economic empowerment initiatives towards young people have led to a number of challenges including child marriages.

In this edition, we have also captured some successes in women empowerment and gender equality, our efforts in promoting good governance and many others.

It is our hope that you enjoyed our previous edition and that you will also enjoy this issue.

> Enjoy your read! Lemani Makina

Our Values

Integrity Transparency Accountability Team work Confidentiality Respect for human rights and dignity

Our Programmes

- 1. Enhancing Child Development & protection
- 2. Youth Development
- 3. Governance and Human Rights
- 4. Promoting Women and Gender Equality
- 5. Promoting Good Health, Sanitation & Wellbeing
- 6.Climate Change & Disaster Management
- 7. Media, Networking, Collaboration & Coordinating
- 8. Research, Monitoring, Evaluation, Documentation and Learning



CONTACTS

Executive Director Youth Net and Counselling (YONECO) Youth Leadership Development Centre Complex Along Zomba Lilongwe Road Next to Calvary Family Church P.O. Box 471 Zomba Malawi

Tel: +265 1 526 199 Mobile: +265 888 958 726

Contents

Executive Director's Corner	4
YFM Increases Number of Child Programmes.	. 5
YONECO and Mchinji Police in Child Rights Awareness in Schools	6
YONECO Intervenes in School Code Transfer.	6
23 Young People Trained as Community Scorecard Facilitators	. 7
Mangochi Peer Educators Commended for their Diligence.	7
Primary School Sessions with Learners on Sanitation and Hygiene	8
Leaners to Benefit from Career Talk Sessions in Rumphi	8
YONECO Warns the Youth against Drug and Substance Abuse	9
YONECO Orients Young People on Smart Agriculture.	10
Primary School Leaners Plant 400 Trees in Mchinji.	10
Over 1000 Students Reached with SRHR Messages	11
YONECO Intensifies Efforts in Fighting Drug and Substance Abuse	12
Youth Groups Benefit from Agri-business Activities.	12
YONECO Raises awareness on Violence Reporting Mechanisms	13
YONECO Repatriates GBV Survivor	13
The Power of Saving; Women Reaping the Fruits of VSLA in Rumphi	14
YONECO Trains Young Advocates to Spearhead Child Marriage Fight	14
RLCs Urged to be Community Torch Bearers on Transparency and Accountability	16
Zomba DC applauds Tithandizane National Helpline.	17
US Dept. of State Delegation Holds Discussions with YONECO on TIP.	17
YONECO Hosts Ministry of Gender Officials.	18

Production Team

Editorial Team: Grace Mkwapata, Alinafe Nyasulu, Deogratious Mwalamoyo, and Mabuchi Chunga

Layout & Design : Lemani Makina

- **Contributors :** Charles Mbeba, Dunreck Pande, George Mlowoka Mbizi, Anderson Chikalipo, Wongani Mfune and Rodrick Sinoya,
- Media Advisor: Benson Nkhoma Somba
- Pictures : Lemani Makina and Augustine Chikatentha

Executive Director: MacBain Mkandawire

www.yoneco.org

The Executive Director's Note ... With MacBain Mkandawire



The fifty eighth session for the Commission of Social Development CoSD58 convenes at the UN Headquarters in New York from 10 to 19 February 2020 with a priority theme of "affordable housing and Social Protection systems for all to address homelessness". CoSD58 will have double celebration: 75th anniversary of the Commission and 25th anniversary of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development. This places 2020 as a critical year for the accelerated realisation of inclusive societies and reducing inequalities everywhere for people of all ages.

While reflecting on the CoSD58, one question that needs to be answered is whether as a country we are making progress on the Copenhagen Declaration of Social Development. 25 years after the social summit, Malawi and other sub Saharan countries continue to lag behind with the sustainable development goals. Maternal health is off the track while global hunger continues to increase. Poverty has worsened as Malawi slides backwards to be among the 10 poorest countries in the world. It is imperative that the poverty levels are indicators of social development and one is inclined to start asking what we will be reporting in the Commission on social development 2020. Key to this is beginning to ask the hard questions why the situation continues to be like this.

Further to issue of social development, the Commission will also look at the access to housing and homelessness. It's clear that Malawi might have considered this through the various schemes like the Malata subsidy but its very traumatising to see that the majority of Malawians have poor houses even within the outskirts of cities which include Ndirande and Bangwe in Blantyre, Mgona and Mchesi in Lilongwe and Zolozolo in Mzuzu. These urban settings have serious housing challenges. In addition, as you travel in the cities of Lilongwe, Blantyre, Zomba and Mzuzu; you are met with poor Malawians and children connected to the streets with no place they can call home. They resort to spending the nights on the veranda of the shops or under the bridge. These people are homeless and there is no deliberate programme to target them with proper housing.

While the situation looks very gloomy, it would important for us as Malawians to reflect on what has been the problem. It would be critical to start looking at the policies, programmes and interventions that we are putting in place and whether they are focusing on improving the lives of the common Malawians. The situation draws us to the investments we are making as a country. For example, we have investments like Malawi Social Action Fund (MASAF), Local Development Fund and so many other financing instruments. Do we really invest in the right places? Are we creating the much needed independent on the Malawian society or we continue making Malawians dependent on handouts? Do we have a measure of success among these programmes and ensure that there are long term investments? Let us reflect on all the social protection programmes and whether they give the resilience that is required by Malawians. Are our social protection systems sustainable beyond the funding agencies? What value additions to the lives of Malawians, do these social protection systems like social cash transfers, FISP, public works do?

Interestingly, YONECO is running the complaints and feedback mechanism which shows abuse of power, resources and manipulation of the beneficiaries to speak in favour of the programmes. The situation shows high levels of corruption starting with the identification of beneficiaries through to the distribution of whether its cash or food. Ghost workers have been recruited and this provides a very worrying situation.

If we are going to make progress in social development, there is need to change our mind-set, reduce corruption and focus on the people as beneficiaries and not the duty bearer's bread and butter.

Enhancing Child Protection & Development

YONECO VOICE - Monthly Newsletter February 2020

YFM Increases Number of Child Programmes



YFM Child Presenter

YONECO FM has increased the number of programmes that are produced by and target children from two to six programmes every week as one way of promoting child participation.

Initially the radio station had the following two programmes known as *Ife Ana* and *High Five*. The two programmes are aired every Saturday.

In his remarks, the Executive Director for YONECO, Mac Bain Mkandawire, said the institution observed that children need more platforms that should amplify their voices.

Mkandawire also stated that although the initial programmes have helped in the provision of a channel for children to voice out their issues, some things were not adequately tackled due to the limited time that was allocated to the each of the two programmes. YONECO engages interested children to develop scripts and present the programmes. Further to this, the child presenters co-produce the programmes together with YFM's professionals announcers and producers.

The additional programmes will be aired during week days and the focus will be on environmental conservation, child rights, health and religion. The programmes have also been designed to include various ways of ensuring full participation of children like letters, phone-ins, SMS and WhatsApp messages.

Further to this, the Chief reporter for YFM, Rodrick Sinoya also stated that an addendum child segment has also been introduced in YFM's Tuesday and Saturday news bulletins.





Tithandizane Child Helpline

Every Child Deserves...

Support Protection





YONECO and Mchinji Police in Child Rights Awareness in Schools



The youth being oriented on human rights

YONECO, in conjunction with Mchinji Police, has pledged to work hand in hand to raise awareness on human rights and responsibilities among primary school learners in the area of Traditional Authority (T/A) Zulu in Mchinji District.

The remarks were made during an interface meeting which YONECO and Mchinji Police held with primary school leaners. The meeting was also attended by teachers and other school authorities in the area.

Among other issues, the two institutions and the leaners agreed to intensify awareness messages on rights and responsibilities, national legal instruments that protect children from various forms of abuse.

During the meeting, the leaners asked a number of questions about human rights, child protection issues, and the role of the police in promoting child rights.

Speaking during the meeting, the District Manager for Mchinji, Anderson Chikalipo, said children fail to report abuse cases because they do not have knowledge of what constitutes child rights violation.

"As YONECO, we are aware that there are a number of child rights violations in this district. This is the reason why we would like to ensure that children are aware of child rights issues so as to ably report when ever they are subjected to any forms of abuse", said Chikalipo.

The sentiments were also echoed by officer from Mchinji Police Station who stated that children suffer many abuses on their way to and from, as well as at school. One of the officers added that children suffer abuses in the hands of their escorts and teachers. As such, the trust they have in such people prevents them from judging the acts as wrong.

The intervention is also expected to tackle forced marriages which are also prevalent in some parts of the district.

YONECO Intervenes in School Code Transfer

YONECO has initiated a speedy process of sending back leaners who dropped out of school to re-enroll in school in Rumphi district.

A family situation forced two brothers, Blessings and Becksizwe, to leave their home and move to another area to stay with their grandmother. Eventually, the two boys needed to find a school that was closer to continue their studies.

However, they failed to produce a Code of Transfer, a Form that enables one to enroll into a different public school.

This was too hard for the grandmother who had no

means of going to Mzuzu to collect the Transfer Code. Because of this challenge, the two unwillingly dropped-out of school.

However, the children were advised to report the matter to YONECO office in the district for support. YONECO followed up with the children's former school in Mzuzu. The school authorities responded positively and released the codes. Blessings and Becksizwe are now back in school.

YONECO responds to various issues that affect the youth, women and children in Malawi. Children report directly through YONECO offices, call tollfree child helpline service or send SMS messages.

23 Young People Trained as Community Scorecard Facilitators



The Programme Support Manager (PSM) for YONECO, Hughes Munthali, has described youth-led advocacy as a key recipe in ensuring quality and accessible Youth Friendly Health Services (YFHS). Munthali made the remarks after a 5-day training of young people in a Community Scorecard Approach. A total of 23 boys and girls from some parts of Lilongwe attended the training.

The training was aimed at enhancing young people's access to YFHS. Thus, the young participants were equipped with necessary skills and knowledge for facilitating community assessment of YFHS provision using scorecard methodology.

The training was conducted under Connect Malawi Project which YONECO is implementing in Lilongwe with support from One to One Children's Foundation.

The project is targeting young people who live within the vicinity of Area 18, Bwaila and Tsabango Health Facilities under Lilongwe District Health Office. Out of the 23 participants, 11 were girls and 12 were boys from Bwaila, Maliri and Area 18 townships.

Mangochi Peer Educators Commended for their Diligence



A session on SRHR in progress

Peer Educators from the areas of Traditional Authority (TA) Nankumba and Mponda, in Mangochi district have been commended for their tireless efforts in reaching out to their fellow young people with correct and consistent Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) information.

The Project Officer for YONECO in Mangochi, Charles Mbeba, stated that peer education is one of the most

effective ways of dealing with various SRH challenges which young people face.

Mbeba stated that the educators who were trained by YONECO in 2019 have been able to achieve the targeted outputs which they set in their work plans soon after their training six months ago.

Mbeba stated that there are a number of ways that are used to reach young people with information and interpersonal communication is among the key strategies. Further to this, there are other channels of communication that are complementary to the interpersonal channel.

The peer Educators were trained under Get Up Speak Out (GUSO) Programme which YONECO is implementing in the areas of T/A Mponda and Nankumba in Mangochi with financial support from the Dutch Government through Simavi.

YONECO is implementing the project alongside other five partners under the Malawi SRHR Alliance.

7

Primary School Sessions with Learners on Sanitation and Hygiene



YONECO conducted a sanitation and hygiene session at Mzura Primary School in Mchinji District with the aim of sensitizing leaners about the importance of good sanitation and hygienic practices.

The session was conducted at a time when Mchinji District experienced heavy rains hence the need for young people to be cautious in taking care of the surroundings to prevent waterborne diseases.

Elvin Botha, an official for YONECO in Mchinji District, said cholera outbreaks are very common during the rainy season due to poor sanitation. Although Mchinji has never experienced cholera outbreaks for the last few years, there is still need for young people to be very careful and follow all necessary measures to prevent such diseases. to take leading roles in keeping the surroundings tidy to prevent diseases.

Commenting on the matter, Mzura Primary School Head Teacher commended YONECO for facilitating the sanitation and hygiene session. The Head Teacher further added that poor sanitation and hygiene also affects the education of young people as they spend more time on sickbed than in class.

YONECO also urged the learners to take good care of various sanitation facilities which the school has. The leaners were urged to have a sense of ownership and understand how any damage to the facilities will affect them.

The session was attended by 1,500 male and female learners and YONECO intends to continue with similar sessions in other schools as well.

She added that there is a need to urge young people

Leaners to Benefit from Career Talk Sessions in Rumphi

YONECO has initiated the commencement of Career Talk Sessions in secondary schools around Rumphi district in order to encourage young people to set goals in life and remain in school to achieve them.

Through this initiative, YONECO reached out to various schools with various professionals who introduced their particular field and the requirements for achieving within the scope of a given field.

So far, a total of 1,200 young people have been reached with the sessions and the target for the first quarter of this year is to reach 2,500.



YONECO VOICE - Monthly Newsletter February 2020

YONECO Warns the Youth against Drug and Substance Abuse



YONECO has reached over 200 learners at Zulu Primary School in Mchinji district with awareness messages on drug and substance abuse.

The session was informed by the current trend whereby most young people are abusing drugs and substances. This has greatly affected their health and education as they frequently abscond from classes.

Addressing the leaners, the school's Deputy Head Teacher, Kalonga Mikayela, urged the learners to desist from abusing drugs and substances. Mikayela explained how the tendency affects young people's health and academic life. Mikayela also said that drug and substance abuse is a social problem which has refused to die and has brought about several negative impacts on community development.

YONECO's Field Officer, Thomas Mvwala, urged the learners to be the agents of change in their communities and among their peers.

Asides this, Mvwala also advised the young ones to always access drug and substance counselling and information through the Tithandizane National Toll Free Line (6600).

In his remarks, one of the participants, Harry Thom, hailed YONECO for organizing the session. Harry described the session as an eye opener".



YONECO VOICE - Monthly Newsletter February 2020

YONECO Orients Young People on



Youth engagement on environmental protection

YONECO has oriented 24 young people on climate smart agriculture as one way of enhancing environmental conservation. The orientation session centered on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) number 13 and dwelled much on agro-forestry, a critical aspect on issues of environment conservation and adaptation to climate change.

Among others, the young people were taught how to manage soil, water and crops in their fields without causing any degrading to environment.

The young people who attended the session planted fruit trees in their compounds. The participants are also excited to share the information with others who did not attend the session

In his remarks, YONECO's Field Officer in Mchinji, Thomas Mvwala, said they engaged the youth because they are the agents of change and YONECO wants to instill a spirit of conservation.

Primary School Leaners Plant 400 Trees in Mchinji



YONECO and Eye for Community Link (ECO-LINK) organization embarked on a tree planting exercise in Mchinji district where a total of 400 trees were planted at Mzura and St Dominic Primary Schools in the areas of Traditional Authority (T/A) Zulu and Mlonyeni respectively.

The activity was conducted on 25th January, 2020 as one way of enhancing youth participation in environmental conservation. The exercise brought together stakeholders from Mchinji District Education Office and Forestry Department.

Speaking on behalf of Mchinji District Education Manager, Bonnex Chikadza, urged cleaners and community members to own and provide necessary care and protection to the trees. In his remarks, the District Manager for YONECO in Mchinji, Anderson Chikalipo, assured the authorities that the two organizations will continuously support community members in the management of the trees.

This exercise is among the activities which YONECO has lined up as part of the 2019/2020 National Forestry Season which runs from 15th December to 15th April, 2020.

The main objective of the season is to build a responsible citizenry that cares for trees and forests for the sustenance of present and future generations.

The theme for this year's season is 'Trees and Forests for Transformed Landscapes and Livelihoods'.

YONECO VOICE - Monthly Newsletter February 2020

Over 1000 Students Reached with SRHR Messages



YONECO has reached to over 1000 students in Rumphi district with Sexual Reproductive Health an Rights (SRHR) information.

A number of SRHR challenges have and continue to affect the welfare of young people in Malawi. As the youth account to more new HIV infections in Malawi, teen pregnancies have also increased school drop out rates as well as other associated problems like obstetric fistula. Cultural norms have also led to child marriages

It is against this background that YONECO conducted the sessions to equip the young people with SRHR information and where they can access services.

In his words, YONECO's Field Officer in Rumphi, Wongani Mfune, said young people need to be given access to SRH services for them to properly plan for their future. Mfune said SRHR information is also key for the youth to make informed decessions.

"The only effective way to prevent all these Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) and unwanted pregnancies is to abstain, but if this fails, then young people should opt for safe sex," he said.

In her remarks, the Head Teacher of Nyika Private Secondary School, where one of the sessions was held, applauded YONECO for the initiative saying it will help the students to make informed decisions about their lives.



Wongani Mfune (in a grey fishing jacket)

YONECO VOICE - Monthly Newsletter February 2020

YONECO Intensifies Efforts in Fighting Drug and Substance Abuse



An orientation session on drug and substance abuse

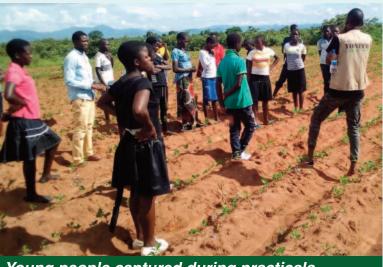
YONECO conducted sessions on drug and substance abuse with the youth who patronize its Drop-in-Centre in Rumphi district, in its quest to deal with the rampant cases that are registered every week. The sessions targeted both primary and secondary school going boys and girls between the age range of 10 and 19.

Among others, the session looked at the common causes and effects of drug and substance abuse. The young people were also made aware of various ways and channels for getting support on drug and substance abuse. Among other things, young people were introduced to YONECO's Drug and Substance Hotline (6600)

In his remarks, the District Manager for YONECO Office in Rumphi, George Mlowoka, said the youth need proper guidance for them to ably realise their goals in life.

Mlowoka stated that the Youth Drop-in-Centre which YONECO has in Rumphi provides a conducive environment for young people to learn critical life skills that should enable them to make informed decisions in life.

Youth Groups Benefit from Agri-business Activities



Young people captured during practicals

YONECO facilitated agri-business based activities under the Youth and Agriculture project which started in January 2019, targeting youth groups in the area of Sub-Traditional Authority (STA) Nyaluwanga in Nkhata Bay district.

From such activities, the youth groups were equipped with agricultural skills and equipment. So far, the groups managed to plant both fruit and non-fruit trees, cultivate vegetables and they also raised broiler chickens.

Succeed Youth Group is among the groups that are now reaping the fruits of their labour.

The group started poultry farming in which they invested. After some time, the group was able to buy 11 Chickens and they have managed to build a chicken coop structure. The group members split 30 percent of profits they make from their businesses.

Apart from the initiatives that YONECO is implementing in the district, the youth groups are also linked to Nkhata Bay District Agriculture Office for further assistance and technical support

Tithandizane 116 Helpline

Marriage, No Child's Play

<u>REPORT CHILD MARRIAGE CASES</u> Call: Toll Free **116**

CONTACT US POSTAL ADDRESS: The Executive Director C/O Youth Leadership Development Centre Along-Zomba Lilongwe Road Next to Calvary Family Church P.O Box 471 Zomba, Malawi TEL: 2010 +265 1 526 199 +265 1 525 674

CELL: 60 +265 888958726

EMAIL: 🙆 executive@yoneco.org.mw

YONECO Raises awareness on Violence Reporting Mechanisms



An awareness campaign on GBV in Nkhata Bay

YONECO conducted awareness sessions at Chipazi village in Nkhatabay District as a way of intensifying community action towards ending Gender Based Violence (GBV) and Child Abuse.

Community members were encouraged to report such cases to the police. Further to this, community members were made aware of various reporting mechanisms including the Police Victim Support Unit, Tithandizane Toll Free GBV Crisis line (5600) as well as Tithandizane National Child Helpline (116) among other reporting structures. It is encouraging to see that the community members are now utilising the messages.

Community members are now reporting cases of abuse to various community structures which also make necessary referrals.

So far, a number of GBV and child abuse cases have been reported to police and community members, through various protection committees follow up on all reported cases.



Members of community protection committees

YONECO Repatriates GBV Survivor

YONECO in Rumphi district facilitated repatriation of Janet Liwawa (not real name) of Phalombe district who was working on a Tobacco field together with her husband.

However, life was not as rosy in Rumphi as Janet expected. The good life which the husband promised before leaving her home was not found. She suffered a lot of abuses from her husband.

Days later he chased her out of their house together with her son which led Janet to seek refuge under a guardian shelter at Rumphi District Hospital. People who found the lady tipped YONECO Office in the district. YONECO officers managed to meet the lady who was immediately taken to YONECO's Safe Place where she was supported with food, psycho-social counselling as well as shelter. Later, YONECO facilitated the repatriation of the lady to her home village in Phalombe district which is a distance of about 717 km from Rumphi.

Currently, efforts are underway to establish community protection committees to prevent incidences of GBV among tenants in tobacco farms.

YONECO VOICE - Monthly Newsletter February 2020

The Power of Saving; Women Reaping the Fruits of VSLA in Rumphi



Members of Tigwirizane VSLA

As a way of enhancing women's economic empowerment, YONECO facilitated the establishment of Tigwirizane Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA) in the area of Traditional Authority (T/A) Lionde, Rumphi district.

The group, which is comprised of 20 members who are between the ages of 25 and 35, has been able to support its members to save and invest in small scale businesses.

In the last six months, the group made a profit of MK 1.4 million which has been shared among the women.

This has seen the members of the VSLA opening up shops for second hand clothes, restaurants, grocery stores among other ventures.

The group has been very exemplary and many women from other parts of the district are demanding support from YONECO so that they can also the exploit the benefits of the VSLA initiatives.

YONECO Trains Young Advocates to Spearhead Child Marriage Fight

YONECO has trained boys and girls as advocates in ending child marriages in Mangochi Districts.

The training was organized with aim of making boys and girls agents of change in raising awareness on child rights and altering harmful cultural practices.

According to YONECO project officer for More Than Brides Alliance (MTBA) Anderson Chikalipo said the fight against child marriages is neutralized by poverty and harmful cultural practices in the communities of Traditional Authority Zulu in Mchinji District and Traditional Authority Namabvi and Makanjira in Mangochi District.

In her remarks, one of the participants Gloria M'bwana from Tiyanjane Youth Club, traditional authority Namabvi in Mangochi district said they will be able to take a major role in reducing teenage pregnancies that are associated with child marriages and creating platforms where young people will be able to discuss issues

concerning child marriages.

Furthermore, Mangochi District Social Welfare (facilitator) Bridget Kapinza said Mangochi is one of the districts in which young girls are forced into early marriages because of culture and religious beliefs as well as poverty.

"Mangochi District council together with different organizations like YONECO are working hand in hand to end child marriages in the district." She said.

The three days training were organized by YONECO a member of More Than Brides Alliance [MTBA] that implements and evaluates the effectiveness of a spectrum of interventions to reduce child marriages, promote child rights and increase access to sexual and reproductive health services among young people.

YONECO VOICE - Monthly Newsletter February 2020



letschill.yoneco.org



Think sharp, be smart, play it safe let's chill

RLCs Urged to be Community Torch Bearers on Transparency and Accountability



RLC receiving a radio set and audio recorders

YONECO has urged the newly oriented Radio Listening Clubs (RLCs) under Open Contracting project in Mzimba district to take lead in ensuring transparency and accountability on developmental projects being implemented in their communities.

One of YONECO's Programme Support Managers, Dunreck Pande, made the remarks during the orientation of RLCs in Mzimba district.

The sessions, were aimed at orientating club members on how they can record radio programmes on contracting and procurement in their communities.

"What we want to do in this project is to ensure there is accountability and transparency within the council (M'mbelwa) on contracting and procurement issues.

"The community needs to know how project money is being used," he said.

Pande said government has about 80 per cent of its annual budget that goes direct to projects that require procurements, but said about 40 per cent of the money is misappropriated.

He explained that some malpractices occur in the course of procuring goods and services, hence the need to empower the community to start engaging communities on where they can obtain documents on different local projects at council level for civic engagement.

The Programme Support Manager cited Mzimba

Community Radio as an entry point as it mostly liked by people in the area.

He said through formation of the six radio RLCs in the district, community members would be empowered with skills of engaging service providers.

The skills, according to Pande, would also help members of the RLCs to conduct research regarding projects currently taking place in their localities.

It is expected that with the engagement of service providers, transparency and accountability regarding, procurement, would be enhanced to benefit citizens at local level.

Speaking in an interview, Titemwane Radio Listening Club Chairperson, Nayisoni Zimbili said the training was an eye opener.



Training of RLCs in progress



Members of various RLCs after the training

Media, Networking & Collaboration

Zomba DC applauds Tithandizane National Helpline



YONECO ED (L) and Zomba DC at YONECO Head Office

The District Commissioner (DC) for Zomba, Dr. Raphael Pirungu, visited YONECO on a familiarization tour to understand the operations of the YONECO ICT Centre, Tithandizane National Helpline Service and Radio departments.

The DC commended YONECO on how it is fighting Gender Based Violence (GBV) through the provision of necessary reporting platforms.

Dr Piringu also commended the rapid response to cases that are reported to the helpline as well as the case management system.

The DC further stated the work of YONECO is also a deterrent factor to many would-be offenders.

Tithandizane National Helpline Service was established to respond to issues that affect the youth, women and children in Malawi. As such, the service supports survivors of various forms of abuse through phone as well as face to face counselling. The service is available 24 hours everyday.

In addition to this, the centre also acts as a referal agent for GBV and child abuse cases.

US Dept. of State Delegation Holds Discussions with YONECO on TIP

A deligation from the US State Department Office held discussions with YONECO in order to accelerate efforts towards combating Trafficking in Persons (TiP).

The delegation that was led by Haley Wright held the talks with YONECO staff on 29th January 2019. The two sides discussed how YONECO has contributed towards supporting survivors of TIP as well as awareness raising efforts about the existence and dangers of the malpractice.

Malawi is a source, transit as well as destination of people who are subjected to this gross human rights violation. As such, internal efforts to respond and curb TIP are very critical and beneficial to many people within and outside the country.



A meeting on TIP in progress



Media, Networking & Collaboration

YONECO VOICE - Monthly Newsletter February 2020

YONECO Hosts Ministry of Gender Officials

Officials from the Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare (MoGCDSW) had a learning and sharing visit to YONECO Head Office in Zomba where they toured various departments such as the Tithandizane National Helpline Center, ICT and the YFM.

The delegates discussed a number of critical issues pertaining to Gender Based Violence (GBV) and Child protection issues among other things.

From the discussions, the two parties also looked at the Complaints and Feedback Mechanism (CFM) which is used as a reporting channel for community members during emergency situations. Furthermore, the tool also has a facility for data storage and analysis.

Thus, the tool is a critical component in the promotion of accountability and transparency.

One of the delegates, Justin Trevor Hamela, Deputy Director- Child Affairs, commended YONECO for its untiring efforts of managing the National Child Helpline on behalf of the Malawi government.

Hamela stated that there is need to enhance the rights and welfare of people by providing various reporting channels.

"As government, we are doing our best to make sure that the rights and welfare of women and children are upheld in the country. It is encouraging that we have organizations like YONECO that are working hand in hand with us to see that this is fulfilled", said Hamela.



One of the officials of MoCDSW



YONECO ED doing a presentantion during the tour



Deputy Station Manager (Left) n the ON-Air studio together with the Officials from the ministry

The Real voice of the youth, women and Children

Contact Us :



The Executive Director C/O Youth Leadership Development Centre Along-Zomba Lilongwe Road Next to Calvary Family Church P.O Box 471 Zomba, Malawi TEL: +265 1 526 199 +265 1 525 674 CELL +265 888958726

E: executive@yoneco.org.mw

Frequencies

Zomba : 97.9 Mhz Blantre : 101.4 Mhz Lilongwe: 90.0 Mhz Dowa : 98.3 Mhz Mzuzu : 104.0 Mhz

Youth Net and Counselling (YONECO) February, 2020