

First Phase - Project Report

Translation and Dissemination of “Called to Care Manual No.8”



Project Reporting Period	July 2015 – March 2016
Project No.	143-001-1058 KH
Funded By	MISEREOR
Contact Person and Title	Tony Khanyepa Executive Director
Contact Information	P.O. Box 2925, Blantyre, Malawi. Phone: +265 999 151 833 Email: yai.org2003@yahoo.com

Project Background

Youth Activists Initiative Organization (YAIO), a Blantyre based youth organization, in partnership with Strategies for Hope Trust with funding from MISEREOR is implementing a project called **“Translation and Dissemination of *Called to Care Manual No.8.*”** The “Translation and Dissemination of *Called to Care Manual No.8.*” project came after YAIO implemented **“Lesson for Life - Called to Care”**, the project designed to help in and out of school youth regardless of their gender; race or ethnic groups by offering them an enjoyable way to learn about improving their self-esteem; building good relationships; making smart decisions; living a healthy lifestyle and resisting peer pressure. Additional attention is given to good communication skills; equal rights of girls and boys; avoiding bad habits such as substance abuse and sexual behaviors that lead to HIV infection. On the other hand, the project also targets opinion leaders that include; care groups, religious, parents, guardians and other people playing a parenting role.

Through the “Called to Care - Lesson For Life project”, YAIO has been using **Called to Care Handbook No. 8- “My Life – Starting Now”** which is user-friendly designed for use with religious institutions, youth groups and communities at different levels of awareness; experience in relation to Life planning and development of skills; as well as knowledge of HIV/ AIDS prevention and care.

Through the “Called to Care - Lesson for Life project, stakeholders proposed for the translation of the Handbook to a local language (Chichewa) which is commonly spoken and understood by most of Malawians. After observing that:

- The Called to Care handbooks are relevant to a Malawian society, but in English yet the targeted communities mostly are vulnerable and cannot either read or understand the information.
- The original Handbook has relevant and accurate information on HIV/Aids prevention, care and support targeting young people but the language used couldn’t be easily understood by the majority of vulnerable communities.

It was on these observations that Youth Activists Initiative Organization proposed to MISEREOR for funding for the translation of **“My Life – Starting Now”**. MISEREOR funded the Translation of **“Called to Care Handbook No.8 *My Life - Starting Now* which is now called **“Moyo Wanga – Kuyambira Pano”**.**

Summary of Project Activities - First Phase

During the First Phase of Translation and Dissemination of “Called to Care Manual No.8”project, Youth Activists Initiative Organization translated **Called to Care Handbook No. 8- “My Life – Starting Now”**, printed 5000 Handbooks, conducted 10 Book Awareness sessions whereby 623 handbooks were distributed, 410 people attended the Book Awareness sessions (200 males and 210 females) and 297 organizations participating.

During distribution exercise, 2102 handbooks were distributed to organizations and individuals. In general, a total of 2725 **Moyo Wanga - Kuyambira Pano** Handbooks were distributed during the first phase of the project.

Objectives of the project

- To improve understanding of the book content through translation of English to Chichewa edition.
- To enable participants (children and parents) to understand the challenges they face and how to deal with them
- To help build young people’s self-esteem, which will help them feel confident and able to overcome obstacles and challenges in their lives
- To help young people make good decisions, like saying “NO” to sex or to the misuse of drugs and alcohol
- To provide knowledge and skills which parents need to guide them in supporting their children to grow responsibly

Outputs

1. Book Translation outputs

- “Called to Care Handbook No.8 “ **My Life - Starting Now** translated from English to Chichewa
- 5000 copies printed

2. Book Awareness outputs

- 10 Book Awareness sessions conducted as planned
- 623 handbooks distributed during book awareness sessions alone
- 410 people attended the Book Awareness Sessions
- 297 organizations participated

- 200 males participated
- 210 females participated

3. Distribution outputs

- 2102 *Moyo Wanga - Kuyambira Pano* handbooks distributed to organizations and individuals during book distribution exercise alone

4. General Outputs:

- 2725 *Moyo Wanga - Kuyambira Pano* handbooks distributed
- 305 organizations (faith based organization, youth organizations, community based organizations, schools, care centres, government departments) reached.

Details of Book Awareness Sessions

No	Date	Location	No of Participants	No. of Books distributed
1	18/ 01/ 2016	National Sports Council	40	100
2	23/ 01/ 2016	Wells of Joy Centre - BCA Hill	45	55
3	30/ 01/ 2016	Mpemba Child Reformatory Centre	50	40
4	04/ 02/ 2016	Blantyre City Council	33	40
5	05/ 02/ 2016	Blantyre City Council	34	48
6	18/ 02/ 2016	Nankumba Community Day Secondary School	36	50
7	19/ 02/ 2016	Zingwangwa Primary School	31	20
8	24/ 02 /2016	Kadikila CBO – Chikuli/ Chileka	40	55
9	09/ 03/ 2016	Limbe Primary School	51	155
10	11/ 03/ 2016	Chilomoni Teachers Development Centre	50	60
TOTAL			410	623

Book Distribution Chart

No	Organization	No. of Books
1	Catholic Health Commission	600
2	Catholic Church Secretariat	300
3	Blantyre Synod (Church of Central African Presbyterian)	300
4	Concerned Youth Organization	100
5	Seventh Day Adventist Church (South Malawi Field)	100
6	Network for Youth Development	100
7	National Aids Commission (Southern Region Office)	100
8	Blantyre Urban Youth Office	100
9	Blantyre District Youth Office	100
10	Word Alive Ministries – Development Commission	50
11	Child Evangelism	50
12	Churches Action in Relief and Development (CARD)	50
13	Bangwe Youth Centre	45
14	Blantyre City Council - Library	40
15	Malawi Scotland Partnership Resource Centre	20
16	National Library Services	13
17	Chikondi Cholinga Community Based Organization	12
18	Beehive	10
19	Zingwangwa Primary School	7
20	Save the Poor Foundation	5
TOTAL		2102

Other influential organizations using the books in their projects

1. Network for Youth Development (Mzuzu and Luchenza)
2. Active Youth Initiative for Social Enhancement
3. Concerned Youth Organization
4. Catholic Health Commission (Neno and Mwanza)
5. The Roman Catholic Church
6. Word Alive Commission for Development
7. Blantyre Synod – Church of Central African Presbyterian (Blantyre and Thyolo)
8. Seventh Day Adventist Church (South Malawi Field)
9. National Library Services
10. Malawi Scotland Partnership
11. District Education Office
12. Child Evangelism
13. Blantyre City Council
14. Blantyre District Youth Office
15. Blantyre Urban Youth Office
16. Beehive

Comments from Stakeholders

Dean Thengo- (Project Officer- Word Alive Ministries International) “I would like to thank Youth Activists Initiative Organization for organizing this function here at Mpemba Child Reformatory Centre. I have been working in this area for over 3 years and I know the challenges young people in this area face. We also know that this is a Reformatory Centre and every time they receive young people coming from different sections of the country but as organizations we have not been able to come up with interactive or counseling sessions as our friends have done today. I would like to commend the management of this centre for allowing the event to take place here. On the information in the book, I wanted to tell you that I knew about this book in 2014 when I attended a 2 day training workshop organized by Youth Activists Initiative Organization at Nankumba Teachers Development Centre. The books are very good and useful for all of us as teachers, social workers, caregivers and the youth themselves so let us use them. Youth Activists Initiative Organization has been our partner for some time and we have been involving them on projects targeting the youth and I promise you that from today onwards we will be coming here with different activities aimed at encouraging and motivating you to achieve your goals and become responsible citizens. Lastly, I

would like to encourage you to refrain from immoral behaviors that can put your like at risk. **“Moyo Wanga – Kuyambira Pano”** handbook will help you achieve your goals.”

Onex Chikalipo- (Catholic Health Commission) “For me this is my first time I have attended an event organized by Youth Activists Initiative Organization, I liked the approaches they use in dealing with young people, I liked the group discussions and the presentations made by the young people themselves. Where I work I also work on a project targeting the youth called **“Zatonse”** in Mwanza and Neno districts. Our organization has already collected books of **“Moyo Wanga – Kuyambira Pano”** ready for distribution and use in our project area. The topics in the book are very useful to teachers, facilitators and young people, the information can change your life, you only need to forget your past and start a reformed and transformed life starting from today as per the title of the book. Together with Youth Activists Initiative Organization we will come again to share different information from the books that have been presented to the centre. I am also delighted to see young people from surrounding communities and I am sure that the next time we come they will make themselves available in the sessions. I wishing you also the best. May the good Lord be with you all the time.”

Sheik Kawinga- (Muslim Association of Malawi) “This seems to be a very important book for us religious leaders. As religious leaders we need to avoid jealousy when disseminating the contents of this book, the trend of jealousy is only contributing to the retarded flow, adaptation and effective usage of important messages and information which would contribute to the tangible national development. The information in the book will help a lot of our children to grow into becoming responsible citizens if we are to deliver and share the information in this book to them. I will share the messages in this book to my fellow leaders at our institution so that they should be able to use these books in different meetings and forums.”

Solum Mtogolo- (Program manager- Centre for the Development of People) “I would like to appreciate the approaches, topics and writing style of this book, it also has topics which are none discriminatory. As someone coming from an organization promoting the rights of the minority groups, I see that the book can be used by different sections of the society despite differences in gender, race and social issues. Am also inspired by the use of verses or scriptures in delivering of messages. Most people are eager to listen to the word of God and even in most gatherings we always start with a prayer and close with a prayer showing the passion we have for God. God has always been the centre of everything in our lives so the use of scriptures will help people to listen to the messages and use the knowledge acquired. As one of the leaders at our organization, I will make sure that I organize a meeting with my team to share with them information in the book before we take it down to our beneficiaries. We know it is not easy for youth organizations or groups to come up with such initiatives. Let us encourage and support the project because the benefits will be for all of us.”

Daud Ngwala (District Youth Officer) “This book **Moyo Wanga – Kuyambira Pano** is very important to the youths. I was informed about this book before the translation work started. As the youth officer I encouraged them

that this is an important project. I have worked in many districts and I know challenges most youths face, so translating the book “My Life – Starting Now” to Chichewa was a good idea because of the contents in it. The book has different topics which are all important for the growth and development of the youths. I would also like to thank Strategies for Hope Trust and MISEREOR for the support they give to Youth Activists Initiative Organization. Translating a book is not easy so coming up with this book is a plus to them and us all. I know that most of you here work with the youths on different projects and with the books you have received here today please try to create some time to discuss about the book, organize meetings with your fellow young people and share the information in the book. Nowadays we see a lot of young people engaging in bad behaviors which also put their lives at a health risk, let’s organize activities targeting them, empower them with knowledge and skills, tell them know the dangers of early sex, drugs, alcohol, bad decision making and HIV/Aids. This handbook which is now called **Moyo Wanga – Kuyambira Pano** can be used as a tool for all youth groups that are here. Tell your friends from other organizations about the book. Lastly, I am happy for this project Youth Activists Initiative Organization is implementing in Blantyre, but am also happy to learn that the Catholic Health Commission have collected books for use outside Blantyre meaning the project is scaling up to other districts. Let’s join hands in disseminating the information in the book. We collected some books so you can also get the books at the youth office. We at the youth office will make sure that the books should reach to as many young people as possible. I wish you all the best.”

Ginford Scoach (Teacher - Chikuli Community Day Secondary School) “I have seen that these books have good and relevant information for the young people. Though in schools we do not have a lot of time to teach social issues like the topics in the book given to us today, we will try to create time for the information in this book to be shared to the young learners. We will start using the book next week at our school where our learners are allowed to participate at social clubs once a week. The books will help the teachers too, and they can learn some skills on how to facilitate meetings with the young people. If we all start educating the young people in our community using this book, I think we are going to have an empowered young generation free from immoral behaviors. Thank you for translating this book to our local language because now even those who cannot understand English will be able to use this edition.”

Challenges

- Devaluation of the Malawi Kwacha leading to high prices of some items such as printing, refreshments and transport.
- Technical challenges on translation and proofreading leading to delayed finalization of the first phase of the project.

Recommendation and Conclusion:

- The books will help young people become knowledgeable and make right and responsible decisions; there is a need to be open with the kids and young learners when discussing issues concerning their daily lives.
- Stakeholders proposed for the continuation of this project, as such it required some extra training for more trainers and users taking into consideration that adolescence is an experimental period that requires more information for their growth and development.
- The participants felt that schools, youth groups and community based organizations alone should not be the targets, but communities where learners are coming from should also be exposed to such informative and life changing messages.
- They requested that YAIO should have sensitizations meetings with the learners in the schools for the teachers alone do not have enough time.
- There is need for more sensitizations, trainings and books targeting the youths in the area as they are not enough youth service providers.
- There is need for organizations, community leaders, parents, schools and individuals to work together in addressing challenges young people and learners are facing.
- The messages in the books will help young people make informed choices on issues affecting their lives such as peer pressure, substance abuse and HIV infection.