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Moyo Wanga – Kuyambira Pano Launch Report

Date: 18 th January, 2016
Project No: 143-001-1058 KH
Funded by: MISEREOR

Organization Name: Youth Activists Initiative Organization (YAIO)
Venue of Activity (s): : Sports Council’s Boardroom- Kamuzu Upper Stadium

DESCRIPTION

Project Name: Translation and Dissemination of “Called to Care Manual No.8”
Name and Contact Details of Executive Director: Tony Khanyepa

CONTENT OF THE WORKSHOP

<p>Activity:</p> <p>On 18th January 2016, Youth Activists Initiative Organization (YAIO), a Blantyre based youth organization, in partnership with Strategies for Hope Trust with funding from MISEREOR launched an HIV/Aids manual book “Moyo Wanga – Kuyambira Pano” at the National Sports Council’s Boardroom in Blantyre. The launch was attended by different stakeholders coming from different sections of youth groups, youth leaders, government, faith community, Civil Society Organizations, women groups, private sector, education authorities, community based organizations and</p>

the media. These stakeholders the main stakeholders in HIV/Aids work and youth development programs.

“Moyo Wanga – Kuyambira Pano” is Chichewa version of **Called to Care Handbook No. 8- “My Life – Starting Now”** which was designed to help in and out of school youth regardless of their gender, race or ethnic grouping 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 leads to HIV infection. **Called to Care Handbook No. 8- “My Life – Starting Now”** is user-friendly designed for use with churches, youth groups and communities at different levels of awareness and experience in relation to life planning and development of skills as well as knowledge of HIV/ AIDS prevention and care.

Objectives of the launch

- To raise public awareness of the Kuyitanidwa Kuchisamaliro Handbook No.8 **“Moyo Wanga – Kuyambira Pano.**
- To inform stakeholders about the Translation and dissemination of Kuyitanidwa Kuchisamaliro Handbook No.8 project.

Activities during the launch:

- Drama
- Speeches

Dissemination Outputs:

- 42 participants attended the launch
- 100 Kuyitanidwa Kuchisamaliro No.8 **“Moyo Wanga – Kuyambira Pano”** distributed

Main Speeches:

Those who spoke at the launch include; YAIO representative, YAIO Board Chairperson, Blantyre District Urban Youth Officer and Mr Justice Matonga from the private sector who was the Guest of Honor.

Lauryne Sembereka (YAIO representative's speech)

“I will start by giving you a brief background of Youth Activists Initiative Organization. Youth Activists Initiative Organization (YAIO) is a registered youth organization established to research, address and share information on issues that affect and threaten the lives of Malawians more especially the young people.

Youth Activists Initiative Organization (YAIO) in partnership with Strategies for Hope and funding from MISEREOR implemented a project called “Lesson for Life/ Called to Care”, a project designed to help in and out of school youth regardless of their gender, race or ethnic grouping 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 leads to HIV infection.

On the other hand the project also targets leaders of different care groups, churches, parents, guardians and other people playing a parenting role.

“Lesson for Life/ Called to Care project” uses **Called to Care Handbook No. 8- “My Life – Starting Now”** which is user-friendly designed for use with churches, youth groups and communities at different levels of awareness and experience in relation to Life planning and development of skills as well as knowledge of HIV/ AIDS prevention and care. The project also uses **Called to Care Handbook No. 10 – “Parenting – a Journey of Love”** which is designed for biological parents, guardians and other people playing a parenting role with children and adolescents-including orphans who are themselves household heads.

The **Called to Care Handbook Handbooks** are produced by the Strategies for Hope in UK and the contents of the handbooks have an inspiration from the word of God with Biblical verses which we use in delivering the messages.

From December, 2013 to July, 2015, Youth Activists Initiative Organization (YAIO) conducted 20 training workshops and awareness sessions in Ndirande Township , Mbayani Township , Mpemba, Zingwangwa Township, Chileka, Chilomoni Township and Bangwe Township distributing over 250 Called to Care handbooks.

Through the training workshops and awareness sessions, participants proposed that if possible we need to have a Chichewa version of the handbooks. It was also observed that;

- A number of relevant IEC materials are in English yet the targeted communities mostly are vulnerable and cannot either read or understand the information there in.
- There is less or no accurate information on HIV/Aids being provided to the youth
- Some cultural practices prohibit open discussion of sex and sexuality between parents and children, stigma associated with HIV/AIDS and religious considerations that present sex as a sin often seriously hinder youth's easy access to adequate information.
- Some youth engage in unprotected sex even when they possess knowledge about the dangers of HIV.
- Lack of proper health care services for the youth influenced by lack of resources and infrastructure to deliver the needed services for HIV prevention
- Most parents and guardians lack parenting skills

It is through these observations that Youth Activists Initiative Organization proposed to Strategies for Hope Trust and MISEREOR for funding for the translation of **“My Life – Starting Now”** and **“Parenting – a Journey of Love”**.

We are glad because MISEREOR funded the translation of **“My Life – Starting Now”** to Chichewa. On the other handbook **“Parenting – a Journey of Love”**, we are still looking for organizations and individuals who can support us with funding to translate this equally important book.

The translation and production of the handbook would not have been possible without the services of Charles Simbi, Peter Kamzimbi, Emmanuel Chipula, William Katunga, Glen & Alison Williams and Fattani Offset Printers.

The Dissemination of the **Kuyitanidwa Kuchisamaliro No.8 “Moyo Wanga – Kuyambira Pano”** will run until 2018. Our plan is to reach out to as many young people as possible with these handbooks which we will be distributing free of charge. We are sure that the information therein will help a lot of young people to be able to make informed choices on their daily lives thereby reducing the risks of engaging in bad behaviors.

On behalf of Youth Activists Initiative Organization, this is all I had to present to you.

Thank you for listening.”

Mr Justice Matonga (Guest of Honor/ Transformational leader)

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and gentlemen

“It gives me a great pleasure to be here this afternoon on the occasion of the Official Launch of an HIV/Aids handbook for the young people- **“Moyo Wanga- Kuyambira Pano”**. The Handbook we are to launch today comes from a project Youth Activists Initiative Organization in partnership with Strategies for Hope Trust has been implementing in Blantyre called “Lesson for Life/Called to Care”.

“Lesson for Life project” uses **Called to Care Handbook No. 8- “My Life – Starting Now”** produced by the Strategies for Hope Trust and the contents of the handbooks have an inspiration from the word of God with Biblical verses which are used in delivering the messages.

Today we are here to launch a Chichewa version of **Care Handbook No. 8- “My Life – Starting Now”** which has been translated by *Youth Activists Initiative Organization* after getting calls from different young people, teachers, caregivers, organizations and communities to translate the book.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and gentlemen,

Youths are one of the greatest and most precious resources that Malawi as a nation has ever had. Youth is probably the most wondrous stage in human development, but it is also the most dramatic. Many of us have witnessed the beauty of children growing up into independent and responsible adults. But we have also witnessed the tragic shattering of youthful dreams due to early pregnancies, drug and alcohol abuse, crime, violence, disease and poverty.

The passage from childhood to adulthood has become even more challenging due to the breakdown of the traditional family, with all its rites of passage, associated structures, resources and social support. The explosion of information technology and the dramatic cultural and economic changes further complicate the scenario for young people. As a result, they are tempted by high-risk behaviour, which can lead to life-threatening health problems such as HIV and other sexually transmitted infections.

Most young people are involved in the consumption of drugs and alcohol which result in the youth engaging in risky behaviors which include teenage sex, crimes, robbery among the boys while girls are also involved in risky behaviors including commercial sex work. These behaviors also result in the youth dropping out of school, teenage pregnancies, unsafe abortions, mental illnesses and STI/HIV infections.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and gentlemen,

Most of our youth are involved in these bad behaviors because of lack of parental guidance; Lack of follow up on young people’s behaviors when they are outside their homes with their friends; Lack of proper guidance on the use of

contemporary youth culture; Peer pressure and lack of information, knowledge and skills on their daily lives.

As I am about to unveil the Chichewa version of **My Life- Starting Now** to you, I delighted to let you know that I had a chance to go through some topics in the book and am hopeful that the information therein will help a lot of young people and adolescents to be able to make informed choices on their daily lives.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and gentlemen

As we are all aware that HIV infection is high among the youth with an infection rate of 50%, there is need for us all, the government, Civil Society Organizations, individuals and private sector companies to work together in the fight against HIV/AIDS and secure the plight and welfare of our children. We need to make sure that our young people have information, knowledge and skills on HIV preventive measures.

The information in the book will help the youth, youth workers, teachers and children in dealing with challenges young people face as it has topics like: I have good values; I can prepare for my future; I can make good decisions; keeping my body healthy; Protecting myself from drugs and alcohol; My body is changing; My sexual and reproductive health; HIV prevention and care and other topics which are important to the growth and development of young people.

Once again, I would like to reiterate that all of us have a role to play in helping our young people and the government in the HIV/Aids fight, with each and everyone of us having different roles and a wide range of capacities to support and complement one another's efforts. I would like in particular to appeal to members of the press to continue to support and complement the Government's efforts in promoting public awareness on HIV/Aids. The private sector too are important stakeholders in the fight against HIV/Aids and it's high time they need to decide on how they can support.

I would like to encourage and congratulate *Youth Activists Initiative Organization* for what they are doing in Blantyre. I urge other public and private organizations to support the work of this organization. I would also like encourage other youth organizations to be involved in different youth development projects.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and gentlemen

On this note, it is with great pleasure that I declare this book “**Moyo Wanga – Kuyambira Pano**” officially launched.

Thank you.”

Reporting in Pictures:



Tony Khanyepa welcoming the distinguished guests



Mr George Chirwa (Board Member) speaking



Lauryne Sembereka (Project officer) presenting a statement on behalf of the organization



Miss Ganiza (Catholic Church Representative) taking notes



Time for Role play



Left (Miss Mary Ganiza from Catholic Health Commission), Centre (Mr Justice Matonga)& Mr Daud Ngwala (Youth Officer)



Guest of honor- Mr Matonga presenting a speech

Closing the ceremony with a prayer



Interacting with the media



Section of participants standing after the launch

List of Participants:

No.	Full Name	Organization	Location
1	Justice Matonga	Guest of Honor- Press Trust	Blantyre central
2	Mary Ganiza	Catholic Health Commission representative	Catholic Institute
3	George Chirwa	Board Member	Chirimba
4	Daud Ngwala	Blantyre Urban Youth Officer	Blantyre central
5	Bertha Kadeka	Journalist- Times Group (TV, Radio and Newspaper)	Chichiri
6	Watipaso Mzungu	Journalist- Nation Publication	Chichiri
7	Malenga Chienda	Photographer- Times Group (TV, Radio and Newspaper)	Chichiri
8	Patrick Erick	Dramatist	Chimwankhunda
9	Chrissie Stenala	Dramatist	Chimwankhunda
10	Lauryne Sembereka	Youth Activists Initiative Organization	Nyambadwe
11	Tony Khanyepa	Youth Activists Initiative Organization	Nyambadwe
12	Dean Thengo	Word Alive Commission for Relief and Development	Mpemba
13	Linnah Matanya	Women for Fair Development	Chirimba
14	Jonas Chisale	Malawi Girl Guide	Limbe
15	Emmanuel Mwale	Board Member- Youth Activists Initiative Organization	Soche East
16	Dannie Liwindo	Young Voices Organization	Ndirande
17	Zainabu Mangani	Chilomoni Youth Network	Chilomoni
18	Eliza Byson	Ndirande Youth Network	Ndirande
19	Carol Kassam	Blantyre City Aids coordinator	Chichiri
20	Chinsisi Zigowa	Concerned youth Organization	Kachere
21	Robert Nyambalo	Environmental Concerned Youth Association	Bangwe
22	Rebecca Banda	Youth Arm Organization	Chichiri
23	Godfrey Msoliza	Health Advocacy Network	Soche
24	Ludoviko Kamodzi	Blantyre City Council	Kanjeza
25	Thandizo Sonkho	Student Pastor	Bangwe
26	Benjamin Kang'oma	Photographer	Blantyre central
27	Lydia Chimwala	Save the Children Fund in Malawi	Chichiri
28	Frank Yalu	Drama Assosiation of Malawi	Zingwangwa
29	Kenneth Mtago	Blantyre Urban Youth Network	Blantyre central
30	Hermes Tebulo	Federation of Disability Organization in Malawi	Limbe
31	Joseph Mizimbe	Machinjiri Youth Network	Machinjiri
32	Regina Kaiya	Solomonic Peacocks Youth Organization	Misesa

List of Participants:

No.	Full Name	Organization	Location
33	Abdul Kulesi	Fattani Offset Printers	Chichiri
34	Mary Moyo	Polytechnic College	Chichiri
35	Farida Matumula	Montesorri Primary School	Namiwawa
36	Zongeni Phoya	Local Entrepreneur	Mkolokosa
37	Davie Kachale	Economic Empowerment Group	Mbayani
38	Hope Chitimbe	St Patricks Secondary School	Sunnyside
39	Mr Makoko	District Youth Office	Blantyre Central
40	Sam Phiri	Master of Ceremony	Naperi
41	Pacharo Munthali	Development Broadcasting Unit	Chichiri
42	Jacqueline Sembereka	Spell master	Nyambadwe