

2nd Year Annual Progress Report

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



Project Reporting Period	October 2016 – September 2017
Project No.	I43-001-I058 KH
Funded By	MISEREOR
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<p>Organization Background</p>	<p>Background of Youth Activists Initiative Organization Youth Activists Initiative Organization (YAIO) is a non-profit making organization, which was formed in 2003 as a movement for youth activists. YAIO got registered under the Trustees Incorporated Act, Cap, 5:03 in 2013. The organization is also registered with the Department of youth. Since its establishment, the organization has been implementing different community development projects aimed at empowering young people with information and skills on HIV/AIDS and Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH), Human rights, Education, Career Guidance and conflict management issues. The organization uses a <i>lesson for life approach</i> which it developed, an approach which creates a platform for young people and community to discuss issues affecting them in groups and come up with solutions to the issues through engagement and dialogue with stakeholders.</p> <p>Vision Statement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A society where young people are valued, respected and included in decision making processes. <p>Mission Statement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To undertake research and disseminate information on issues that affects and threatens the lives of the young people. <p>Principles and Values</p> <p>Independence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Act as an independent organization serving the interest of its beneficiaries. <p>Responsiveness:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Able to respond to diverse community needs and challenges. <p>Accountability:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being accountable to the communities and stakeholders. <p>Transparency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open to the public and ready to provide information as needed by stakeholders. <p>Objectives of the Organization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To advocate for the rights and welfare of the young people • To empower young people with knowledge and information on HIV/AIDS and Sexual Reproductive Health
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	<p>Rights (SRHR) and services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To promote equitable access to quality education services for young people. • To raise awareness on the effects of climate change. <p>Prioritized Thematic Areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human rights and governance • Health • Education • Climate change <p>Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy and research • Open forums • Radio programs • Career guidance sessions • Peer education trainings
<p>Project Background</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>

<p>Project Positive Impact- (Community)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chichewa handbook has helped many young people, leaders and groups to understand better the contents of the book. • And from the time the project started, the demand for books and the project to reach out to many areas and districts has been high but we have not been able to reach out to many communities because of lack of resources. • The translated book (Moyo Wanga – Kuyambira Pano) has helped to overcome the communication gap between young people and their guardians on issues that affects young people’s life chances as parents/guardians are now ably understanding its content and pass the same to their minors. • The Moyo Wanga – Kuyambira Pano handbook has enabled participants (children and parents) to understand the challenges they face and how to deal with them. • The contents of Moyo Wanga – Kuyambira Pano has helped build young people’s self-esteem, which is helping them feel confident and able to overcome obstacles and challenges in their lives. • The handbooks are helping young people make sound decisions, like saying “NO” to sex or to the misuse of drugs and alcohol. • The information in the handbooks and its use by the users especially young learners in primary schools has helped them perform better in class compared to those who are not using the handbooks.
<p>Project Positive Impact – (Organization)</p>	<p>The project has raised organizational profile and capacity in a good number of areas notably;-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With Moyo Wanga – Kuyambira Pano handbooks, YAIO has evidently reached the hard to reach young people and their decision markers with the right information and knowledge regarding HIV/AIDS, decisions marking, reproductive health, peer pressure, substance and alcohol abuse, and other life topics, hence helped the organization

	<p>to strengthen its communication, reach and link capacity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish cordial relationships with different stakeholders at community, district and national levels that include community structures and government departments that deals with issues affecting young people. • Gain trust from other donors i.e. Tilitonse Fund who have funded the organization with a 14 months local governance project targeting young people to participate in local development structures. The organization also received funding from Misereor for the Translation and Dissemination of Called to Care Manual Project No.10 project.
<p>Achievements/ Results</p>	<p>The project is achieving its objectives in the sense that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The translated Chichewa book “Moyo Wanga – Kuyambira Pano” is helping a lot of people as most people are now reading the book on their own and are able to transmit the knowledge gained to their peers or target community. • Many organizations including youth groups, youth department, education institutions, faith community, community based organizations are willing to use the handbooks in their programs. • Peer groups including youth organizations, community based organizations, faith based organizations and primary schools now have the information materials to use in dealing with different challenges they face on their daily lives as the contents of the book is valid for the rest of the young peoples’ lives. • With the aid and distribution of the translated books, the targeted communities are now able to meet and have discussions using the book while before the project, community groupings had no even single reference materials, neither chance and forums. • The use of Bible verses in the book encourages people and children to learn faster.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people are now able to translate things from theory to practice and use. • The information in the book is helping street kids and other vulnerable children to change from negative to positive behaviors.
Summary of Activities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Monthly Field visits 2. Quarterly Review meetings 3. Training of trainers 4. Book Distribution 5. Reprinting of Moyo – Wanga – Kuyambira Pano handbooks
	<p>1. Monthly Field visits (October 2016 – March 2017)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the period, the project expanded to Thyolo and Mulanje where YAIO distributed Moyo Wanga – Kuyambira Pano handbooks. • The organization also conducted meetings with the District Education Office and Chilomoni Education Zone office where it responded to the need to expand the project to schools and five schools from the Zone were selected namely; Sigerege, Mayera, Yolodani, Namatete and Namiwawa primary schools. • 16 organizations were visited during the period namely: Malamulo Youth Centre, Thyolo District Education Office, Blantyre District Education Office, Chilomoni Education Zone Office, Mulanje District Youth Office, Network for Youth Development, Phalombe Youth Arms, Njale Primary School, Mother Theresa Child Care Centre, Nangafuwe Youth Club, Mayera Primary school, Namatete Primary school, Namiwawa Primary school, Sigerege Primary school, Yolodani Primary school and Mpingo Youth Club. <p>(April 2017 – September 2017)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the period, the project expanded its activities to Neno and Phalombe where YAIO distributed Moyo Wanga – Kuyambira Pano handbooks. The organization also expanded the project to three other schools in

	<p>Chilomoni Zone in addition to the five schools it has been reaching to.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25 different organizations were visited during the period namely: Mulanje District Youth Office, Network for Youth Development, Nangafuwe Youth Club, Likhubula Primary School, Sigerege Primary School, Yolodani Primary School, Chilomoni Catholic Primary School, Namatete Primary School, Chilomoni LEA School, Namiwawa Primary School, Mayela Primary School, Wells of Joy (BCA Hill), Namatete Primary School, FRENASO, STEKA (Nyambadwe), Tithandizane Youth Club, Catholic Health Commission/ Ligowe (St Maria Goreti Youth), Mother Theresa Child Care Centre- Chilomoni (Young people from Chilomoni Forum), Good Future Organization – Neno/Mwanza (Ambassador Youth Club, Nzotheka Youth Club and Good Future Organization), Umunthu Foundation- Bangwe, Mpingo Youth Club, Njale Catholic Parish Youth Club, Mianga Youth Club, Nsangu Youth Club and River of Life. • 40 field visits conducted. • 756 Moyo Wanga – Kuyambira Pano handbooks were distributed. <p>2. Quarterly Review meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four (4) Quarterly meetings were conducted during the 3rd Phase (on the 21st December 2016 & 15th March 2017), and the 4th Phase on 30th June 2017 & 27th September 2017 respectively. The meetings provided a platform for stakeholders including; Community Based Organizations, youth organizations, government, faith based organizations and local citizens to share progress, review actions and determine gaps for corrections. Lessons and learning generated during these meetings helped facilitate vibrant decision making for better project results. Selected beneficiaries actively participated. <p>3. Training of trainers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 Trainings of 20 participants each were conducted in Blantyre, Thyolo and Mulanje districts during the 3rd phase of the project (October 2016 – March 2017). • 200 people trained (108 males & 92 females). • 245 Moyo – Wanga – Kuyambira Pano handbooks
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	<p>distributed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 138 organizations participated in the training workshops.ed <p>4. Book Distribution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2076 Moyo – Wanga – Kuyambira Pano handbooks distributed during the second year of the project (1320 handbooks during the 3rd phase between October 2016 to March 2017 and 756 handbooks during the 4th phase between April 2017 to September 2017). <p>5. Reprinting of Moyo – Wanga – Kuyambira Pano handbooks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1000 handbooks printed during the 4th Phase of the project.
<p>Activity Outputs</p>	<p>Monthly Field visits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 56 monthly field visits were conducted during the second year • 30 organizations visited during the year <p>Quarterly Review meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 Quarterly meetings conducted in December 2016, March 2017, June 2017 and September 2017. <p>Training of trainers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 training of trainers’ workshop conducted during the second year 10 Trainings of 20 participants each were conducted in Blantyre, Thyolo and Mulanje districts. • 200 people trained (108 males & 92 females). • 245 Moyo – Wanga – Kuyambira Pano handbooks distributed. • 138 organizations participated in the training workshops. <p>Book Distribution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2076 Moyo – Wanga – Kuyambira Pano handbooks distributed during the second year of the project (1320 during the 3rd phase between October 2016 to March 2017 and 756 during the 4th phase between April 2017 to September 2017). <p>Reprinting of Moyo – Wanga – Kuyambira Pano handbooks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1000 handbooks printed during the 4th Phase of the project

<p>Risks and Opportunities</p>	<p>The project received good reception from both government agencies and non- governmental organization as it came with innovative ideas providing information that a lot of young people and communities including organizations have been waiting for, for a long period of time. Through the activities implemented so far, there have been a lot of proposals from different stakeholders including government to print and distribute more books to many young people & organizations and to expand the project to other districts.</p> <p>Though we targeted Blantyre district in the first place, YAIO on its own reached out to other districts such as Thyolo, Phalombe, Mulanje and Neno with the handbooks.</p> <p>Other partner organizations especially Catholic Health Commission, Blantyre Synod and Network for Youth Development are using the books in Mwanza, Neno, Chikwawa, Mzuzu, Thyolo, Mulanje, Phalombe and Nkhatabay districts where they are implementing projects targeting young people.</p> <p>The demand for the handbooks is high amongst different stakeholder thereby creating a bigger opportunity to scale up the project to many communities and districts.</p>
<p>General Comments from stakeholders</p>	<p>Peter Mchenga- Thyolo Education Office “In Thyolo, we are working with young people, parents and guardians from schools, churches as well as tea estates. So far we have seen a big change amongst the youths that we are working with however, we would like to expand our working grounds to other communities in Thyolo. Our main challenge is the high demand of books that we are being supplied with therefore I would like YAIO to print out more books as well as train more people so that we share this information with others.”</p> <p>Richard Kamvakukolera – Active Youth Initiative for Social Enhancement “I would like to recommend on the idea of these important books which are helping in shaping of children and youth. We would also want to appreciate for the translation of the book as it has helped to reduce bias. Previously it was difficult for children and youth as well as parents who do not understand English to use the book but now they can easily access the information in the book. In addition, the presence of Bible verses in the book has been fundamental especially to the parents as some parents would think that the information will expose their</p>

children to unruly behaviors. As an organization, we use these books effectively apart from giving the youth to read on their own at our centre. We use it as a life skills training manual as it has issues that guide us in the provision of the trainings by mainstreaming the issues outlined in the book in our activities.

Nurse Kupheka - Chilomoni Catholic Primary School “The book is well planned and it has helped a lot because most of the learners are now able to read and use the information which is helping them in making good decisions like saying no to sex. The **Moyo Wanga - Kuyambira Pano** handbook has everything that can help a child or young people grow into a responsible adult’.

Joyce Kachale - Primary Education Advisor “The idea of working with schools is fantastic, for it is helping a lot of children in primary schools. It helps them with their day to day lives. More and more children are changing and it’s very noticeable by the way they act and react. One can truly see the difference between those who are using the book and those who aren’t.” A lot of learners in my zone have improved in the way they behave. The learners are able to think critically after reading these books and also share the information therein. Learners are able to solve problems on their own either at school or home. Even teachers and parents in the zone are able to execute their roles and responsibilities well.

Wonderful Nkute – Renew”N”Able Malawi “Firstly, I would like to commend YAIO for the amazing work you are doing, keep it up! This Chichewa handbook has had a tremendous impact on young people. I’m confidently stating this because we are seeing young people themselves giving testimonies on how the book has helped them as well as the other young people with access to information in the book. I would love to see the book reach areas like Chikwawa and Nsanje”

Milca Mkorongo- Chilomoni Youth Forum “Yes!!!! This book is amazing, finally a project that meets the needs of the people and builds the communication gap that existed not only between parents and young people but everyone else who looks after young people. It amazes me because this books gives me and my other young people an enjoyable way of learning. I strongly recommend YAIO to extend this projects to other parts of the country.”

	Lim bani Njewa- Mother Theresa Child Care Centre “This book not only builds young people mentally but also spiritually. I would have loved if YAIO could train more people and organizations from different districts so that this knowledge is known to all Malawians. We see more and more young people coming together to discuss issues affecting their lives and all this is happening because of this book. So I would like to thank YAIO for it has found and come up with a tool which interests young people.”
Partnership and Networking	YAIO collaborated with different partners (organizations) during the 3 rd and 4 th phase of the project namely: District Education Office, District Councils, Youth Offices, Social Welfare Offices, District Aids Coordinating Offices, Community Based Organizations, Schools, Faith Based Organizations, the Church, Youth Groups and the Media.
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long distances to some institutions as most of them are in hard to reach areas. • Heavy rains affected the facilitator’s mobility especially during the 3rd Phase (October 2016 to March 2017). • Many youth groups in rural areas need our physical presence to help them understand the issues in the handbook better. • Devaluation of the Malawi Kwacha leading to high prices of some items such as printing, refreshments and transport. • Lack of funds to help the organization reach out to many communities to fulfill the demand. • Some youth groups especially those belonging to the church are not opening up enough to discuss issues of HIV/Aids and Sexual Reproductive Health, e.g. Ligowe Youth Club which is under the Roman Catholic Church.
Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly field visits were conducted as part of monitoring exercise to assess and learn how different organizations who received the handbook (<i>Moyo Wangwa – Kuyambira Pano</i>) during book awareness sessions, training of trainers, monthly field visits and distribution activities are using the

	<p>handbooks. Those stakeholders that needed YAIO support were supported accordingly and oriented on how they can further use the handbooks and the information effectively.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the eight (8) schools where YAIO has been working with, different sessions using the topics in the handbooks have been shared and the eight (8) schools have been visited on frequent basis.
<p>Conclusion and Recommendations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 as such stakeholders felt that schools, youth groups and community based organizations alone should not be the targets, but communities where young people and learners are coming from should also be exposed to such informative and life changing messages. • Stakeholders proposed for the continuation and project extension to other districts, as such it required some extra trainings for more trainers and users taking into consideration that adolescence is an experimental period that requires more information for their growth and development. • Production of other learning materials like newsletters monthly or quarterly, radio programs, Television programs using topics from the book could help to reach the large mass. • Collaboration with like-minded organizations in other districts such as district youth offices, social welfare offices and education offices will help reach out to many communities.