

**‘INCREASING YOUNG PEOPLE’S PARTICIPATION AND VOICE IN
BLANTYRE CITY PROJECT’**

END OF PROJECT EVALUATION REPORT

Project Profile	
Organization name	Youth Activists Initiative Organization (YAIO)
Contact Address	Po Box 2925 Blantyre Email: yai.org2003@yahoo.com
Project Title	Increasing young people’s participation and voice in Blantyre City
Contract number of the project with Tilitonse	TIL-CB2-16-033-G
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Reporting Period	July 2016 to July 2017

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Abbreviation

ADC	Area Development Committee
AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
BCC	Blantyre City Council
CBO	Community Based Organization
CDF	Constituency Development Fund
CWC	Creative Workshop Consultancy
FGD	Focus Group Discussions
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
KII	Key Informant Interviews
LDF	Local Development Fund
MGDS	Malawi Growth Development Strategy
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Scientists
TOC	Theory of Change
VDC	Village Development Committee
VHC	Village Health Committee
YAIO	Young Activists Initiative Organization
YFHS	Youth Friendly Health Services

1.0 Introduction

This report outlines the findings of an internal evaluation exercise, the evaluation assessed the extent to which the project has contributed to the Tilitonse programme outcomes through a project entitled: *'Increasing Young People's Participation and Voice in Blantyre City'*. This report details how the assignment was conducted and outline how each of the objectives of the assignment was met.

1.1 Background of the Project

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 *lesson for life approach* 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.

The "Increasing young people's participation and voice in Blantyre City" project which aimed at bridging the gap that exist between young people and duty bearers by creating a common ground for ward councilors and members of parliament to collaborate in dutifully serving their constituents. This project aimed at working towards building the capacity of young people in advocacy and policy dialogue, enabling them to responsibly and continually engage duty bearers at various levels within their constituency and ward in a bid to influence much needed change. In addition, the project was also designed to improve young people's voices towards claiming their rights and more importantly increasing their active participation in various issues affecting their communities.

1.2 Contextual Analysis

Mbayani, Chilomoni and Blantyre Central wards in Kabula and Blantyre City West constituencies in Traditional Authority Machinjiri had been characterized by low citizen participation in governance processes, especially young people. This report has noted that young people lacked the capacity to demand information and enjoy basic rights; adequate space for participation; and the capacity to engage the duty bearers and advocate for better services. It has been noted that young people were neglected from participation in the distribution of development initiatives supported through Local Development Fund (LDF) and Constituency Development Fund (CDF) leading to dire consequences such as unemployment and increased poverty. These effects are the causes of high crime incidences, high HIV prevalence rates, increased number of sex workers and unwanted pregnancies and lack of access to Youth Friendly Health Services (YFHS). Notably, the fact that young people have been neglected, there is a cascading number of consequences which had been leading to various social ills which require several interventions. These often have financial and technical implications. There are four main causes to this lack of young people's participation which include:

(1) Secrecy

The report noted that secrecy is the main cause of low or zero participation of young people in the management of projects support by both LDF and CDF. It was noted that with the absence of the Ward Councillor, the Member of Parliament, the City authorities, and other high-ranking officials had the exclusive privilege of accessing information on the funds and how they are being spent. There was an upward accountability, where only the top officials were recognized and disbursement of these funds had to be reported only to them, not the ones underneath. The current status of having Access to Information bill passed is bound to reduce this exclusive privilege.

(2) Control, abuse and Mismanagement

The duty bearers such as Members of Parliament, Ward Councilors and the other high ranking officials, did not only have the privilege of access to information, they also controlled the management of the funds. The funds are mostly managed by the strings of the top officials which leads to abuse and mismanagement.

(3) Lack of engagement between young people and Blantyre City Council

It was further noted that the Blantyre City Council has not engaged young people effectively in the policy making processes of the CDF and LDF.

(4) Absence of Accountability Platforms

The absence of accountability platforms both at wards and constituency level that would provide checks and balances; coupled with young people's lack of involvement, inadequate knowledge on developmental rights, their entitlements and responsibilities hampered accountability and transparency efforts in ensuring full participation and meaningful involvement hence limiting their voice on pertinent wards and constituency issues that matters most to them.

1.3 Goal of Project

- ✓ To lobby duty bearers for the inclusion of young people's to participate in the designing, implementation and monitoring of CDF and LDF projects

Purpose of Project

- ✓ To increase young people's participation and voice in Mbayani, Chilomoni and Blantyre central wards to claim their rights to CDF and LDF projects through dialogue and engagement

Key /Expected Results/Outputs

1. Young people empowered with knowledge and skills to claim and defend their rights to CDF and LDF.
2. Improved dialogue and engagement between young people and duty bearers.

The project targeted 6000 young people in three wards (Mbayani, Chilomoni and Blantyre central wards which fall under Kabula and Blantyre City West Constituencies.

1.4 Purpose of the Evaluation

The purpose of the evaluation was to assess progress made in the project, identify main lessons learnt and make recommendations to guide future programme planning and implementation. The evaluation was guided by the following key evaluation questions:

1. Which project outcomes and outputs have been attained both quantitatively and qualitatively during the implementation period?
2. What evidence is there relating to the difference the project has been able to achieve, how the project achieved the difference, and determine the extent to which this can be attributed to the funded project?
3. How applicable were the underlying principles of Theory of Change, Political Economy Analysis in relation to the project results.
4. Which of the results achieved by the funded project relate to the overall Tilitonse Programme results aimed at achieving change in equitability, accountability, transparency and inclusiveness of institutions targeted by the funded project.

5. Key lessons learned from the project intervention that can inform the design of similar projects in future.
6. What changes in terms of capacity have taken place resulting from mentorship support provided by Tilitonse Fund?

In other words, the purpose of this evaluation is to objectively evaluate the impact of the project from the various stakeholders point of view who were randomly selected and other stakeholder who were actively involved in the project.

2.0 Evaluation Methodology

2.1 Preparatory Work

In order to ensure effectiveness of the evaluation exercise the team of consultants worked in consultation with the YAIO staff and other stakeholders to prepare the research tools for a guarantee of holistic data capture on all concerned areas of the capacity assessment exercise. This consultation ensured that the research tools exhaust all angles of good governance including policy, institutional and legal framework reforms that calls for inclusiveness of all stakeholders (including young people) in policy planning and policy implementation. The team equally reviewed the Tilitonse results framework, project proposal, M&E framework and all other relevant documentation for the project, the process involved an internal preparatory workshop on data collection, analysis, triangulation methods and data transcription processes with the internal staff and project target groups (the young people and duty bearers).

2.2 Sampling Techniques

The performance assessment utilized sampling techniques for both quantitative and qualitative methodologies, with the following data collection tools to guarantee both the depth and width of the subject matter. These data collection tools include the following: (a) Document Review, (b) Structured Questionnaires, (c) Key Informant Interviews, and (d) Focus Group Discussions.

Stratified random sampling was used in sampling respondents to the quantitative data collection method which used a Structured Questionnaires, and for In-depth Interviews, while judgmental sampling and snowball sampling applied for Focus Group Discussion and Key Informant Interviews.

2.3 Data Collection Tools

The data collection tools included:

2.3.1 Document Review

The evaluation assignment reviewed all documents, reports, and briefs of YAIO at this stage to collect figures, and relevant information of the performance of the project. This data was desegregated and analyzed using different statistical tools to meet the assignment objectives.

2.3.2 Structured Questionnaire

Questionnaires were used targeting 55 community young people within the project impact area. The questionnaires targeted different levels of citizens' voice depending on the YAIO recommendations on areas that required assessment.

2.3.3 Key Informant Interviews

The exercise also incorporated twenty (20) structured interviews to selected key stakeholders in the project, which included project officers, key stakeholders from concerned the wards such as

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young people (boys and girls), traditional leaders and ward councilors. Snowball sampling technique was applied for this data collection tool.

2.3.4 Focus Group Discussion

The evaluation exercise also used focus group discussions. The discussions involved 8 young people from Chilomoni ward and were encouraged to feel free to contribute accordingly. The discussions mainly centered on finding out project related activities YAIO has been implementing/facilitating in the project area, and more importantly to establish the level of participation and involvement among the young people and understanding of young people on rights related issues.

2.4 Data Analysis Methods

Quantitative data collected during the performance assessment was analyzed using Statistical Package for Social Scientists (SPSS) and Excel. Qualitative data was transcribed accordingly and themes were observed from the data collected. The analysis mainly focused on the extent to which the project has achieved its intended outputs, and contribution of the project to the Tilitonse framework in consideration of YAIO added value.

3.0 Findings and Discussion

3.10. Project Outcomes and Outputs the project has achieved both qualitatively and quantitatively The evaluation team noted that the project's overall goal which is "to lobby for the inclusion of young people to participate in the designing, implementation and monitoring of CDF and LDF projects," has been achieved through increased young people's participation and voice in various platforms meant for management of CDF and LDF projects in Mbayani, Chilomoni, and Blantyre Central wards. The project had two expected outcomes which include: (1) Young people empowered with knowledge and skills to claim and defend their rights to CDF and LDF and (2) Improved dialogue and engagement between young people and duty bearers.

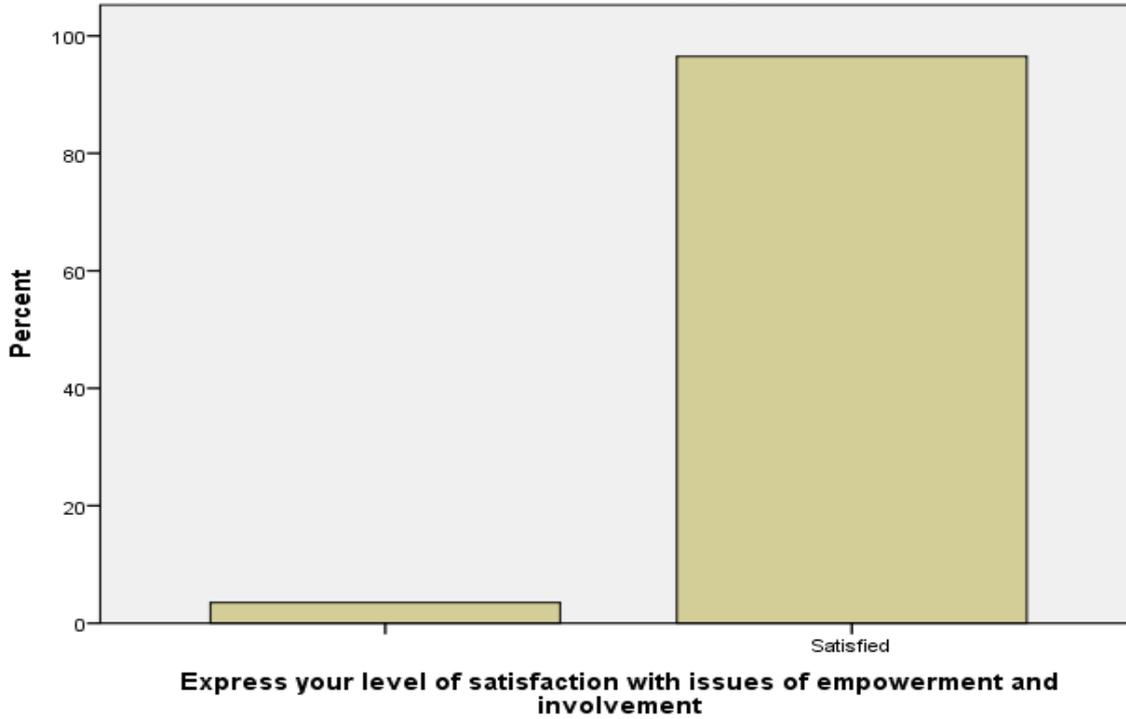
3.11 Young people empowered with knowledge and skills to claim and defend their rights to CDF and LDF.

The results through the questionnaire indicated that the young people are satisfied with issues of empowerment, participation and level of involvement in governance and LDF and CDF projects. They further indicated that they are now involved during planning, implementation as well as evaluation of different CDF and LDF projects within their communities, which was not there before, some are even members of VDC's in their areas. This response indicated that the project had an extensive impact on young people's involvement in governance related matters, especially regarding the management of CDF and LDF. The results indicated the advancement of good governance in the management of different CDF and LDF projects. Through the key informant interviews with the VDC members, there was a general appreciation of the processes and guidelines for LDF projects. Some of the VDCs in Chilomoni and Mbayani ward encouraged young people to join and perform different roles after the awareness and interface meetings with YAIO.

Figure 1 below indicate the responses the evaluation team obtained through the questionnaire survey on empowerment.

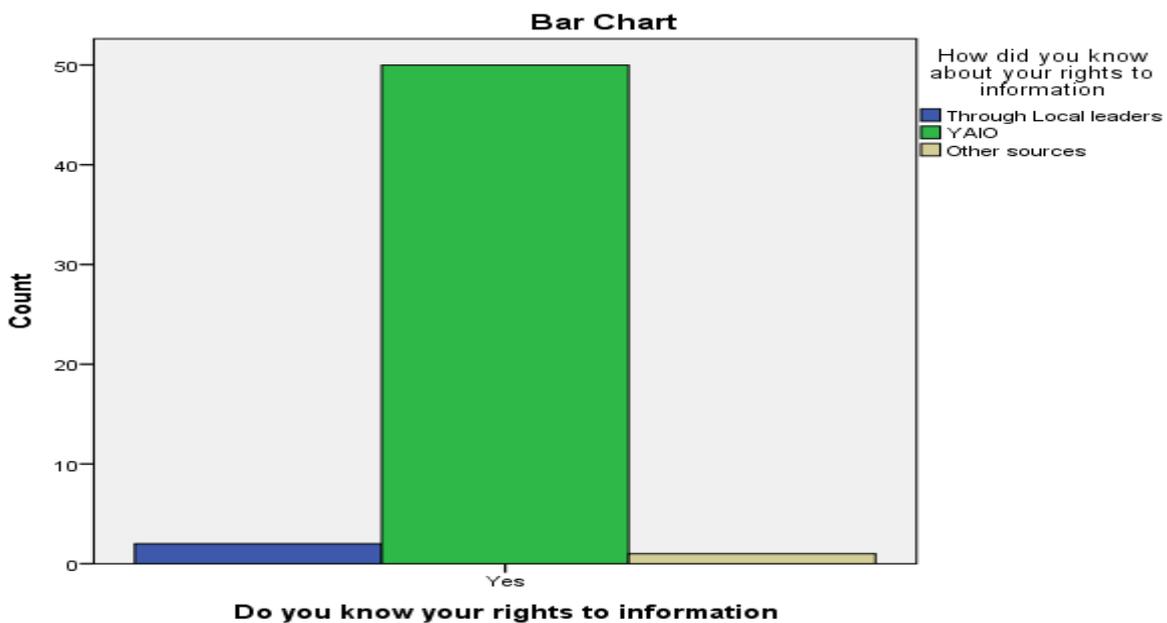
Figure 1: Young People's Satisfaction with Empowerment and Level of Involvement (N=55)

Express your level of satisfaction with issues of empowerment and involvement



On issues to do with young people’s rights, the evaluation established that young people are aware of their rights to information relating to issues affecting their communities, this is mainly due to YAIO’s interventions (Figure 2).

Figure 2 Young People’s Understanding of the Right to Information and YAIO’s involvement in sensitizing the youth in project areas.



The evaluation exercise further established a very strong indication that the young people in the three project areas are aware of their right to development (Figure 2), and there is a strong indication that this is due to YAIO involvement in the project areas (Figure 2).

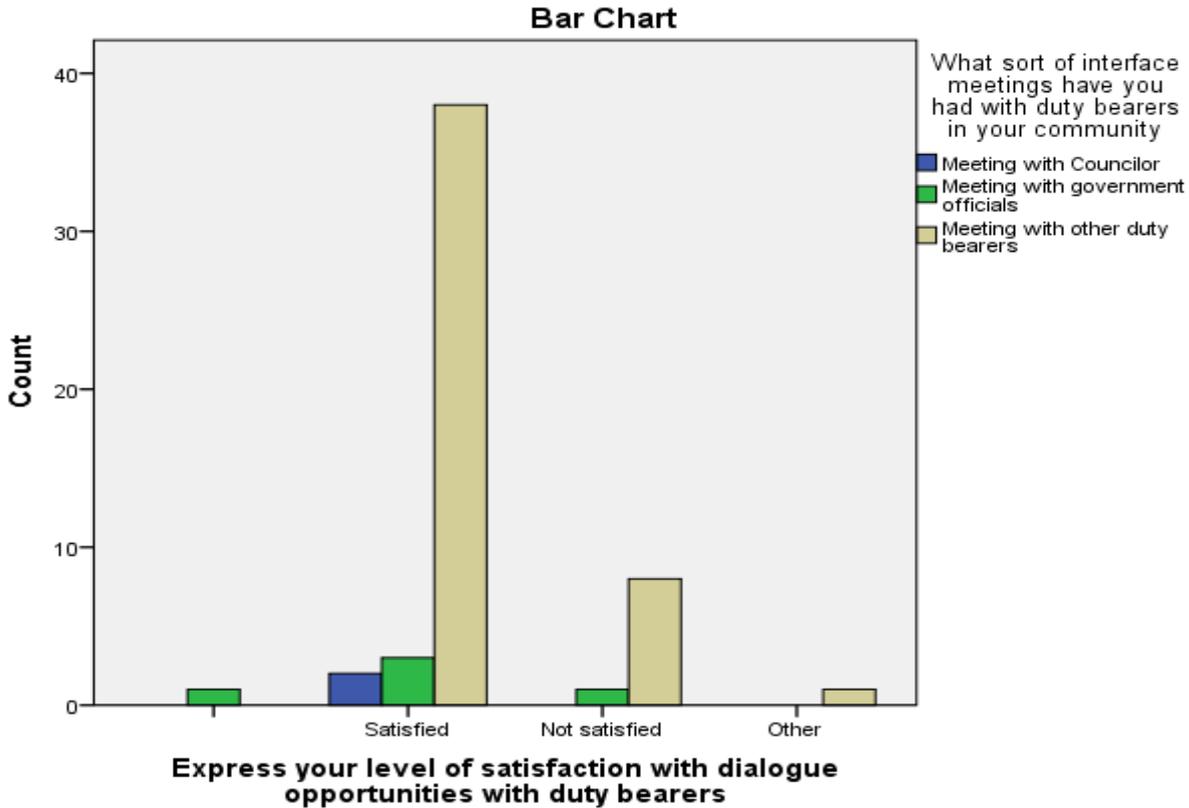
3.12 Improved Dialogue between Young People and Duty Bearers

Young People within the three project areas indicated that their level of engagement mainly with duty bearers has improved since the project was initiated. They indicated that they have been empowered on advocacy and leadership and are able to talk to various duty bearers and more importantly they now understand who they need to approach or reach to on relevant issues compared to how it used to happen before.

The evaluation team observed that the project has not just increased participation of young people but it has improved dialogue and engagement between them and the duty bearers. The key informants from Blantyre City Council observed that there is now an enhanced communication on issues related to LDF/CDF projects created between their office and the young people in the area through the YAIO project. Most of the respondents indicated surprise at the rate of improved communication and dialogue of young people in LDF/CDF projects and they showed optimism that the trend will improve the effectiveness of the projects (Figure 3). According to the questionnaire survey, the respondents overwhelmingly indicated that they are satisfied with the dialogue opportunities and engagement meetings through interface meetings created as a result of the project.

Through the Focus group Discussion, the evaluation team noted that the project has helped the young people to further reduce the gap that existed between them and duty bearers as they are now able to meet, dialogue and engage with various duty bearers (Councilors, chiefs and other government officials), despite this claim there was a strong indication that in other areas like Blantyre Central ward, other duty bearers including the Ward Councilor are often not easy to have access to, which affects communication between the young people and the duty bearer (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Shows young people's level of satisfaction with dialogue opportunities and engagement meeting they have had with duty bearers (N=55)



3.20 Evidence relating to the difference the project has been able to achieve, how the project achieved the difference, and the extent to which this can be attributed to the funded project

3.21 Empowerment of young people

The focus group discussions revealed that young people are now able to engage duty bearers on issues affecting them and their communities, YAIO has been instrumental in ensuring that this is a possibility, most young people indicated that they did not know that it is possible to hold duty bearers accountable to different aspects affecting their communities, but monthly forums facilitated by YAIO helped them to understand that it is possible for them to stand up for their rights.

3.22 Promotion of Social Inclusion

The project has addressed issues of social exclusion which systematically has been perpetuated to control the funds to the privileged few. The fact that most of the unemployment bracket comprises the young people, the project has helped young people to be able to participate and become beneficiaries of CDF and LDF related projects, during the focus group discussions young people expressed the fact that now they are able to understand that they can access funding from the council to help them implement community related developments.

3.1.2 Promotion of Good Governance

The evaluation team has observed that the inclusion of young people has not simply advanced their interests, but it has also engineered good governance at all level of CDF and LDF management.

Young people now have the potential to provide and facilitate checks and balances on the way CDF and LDF funds are managed. The inclusion of young people has also increased downward

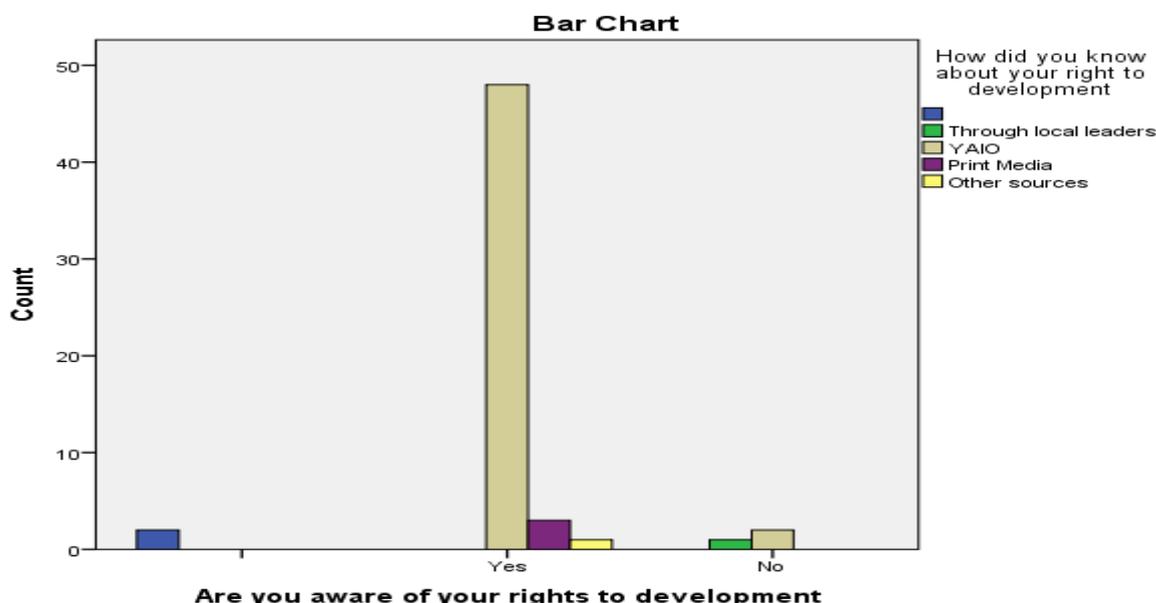
accountability (accountability to the citizens) which is promoting good governance and transparency.

3.30 Applicability of Project Results to the Theory of Change and Political Economy Analysis

The Tilitonse Theory of Change aims at ensuring that Governance in Malawi is increasingly inclusive, accountable and responsive to citizens through four outputs. These four include: enhancing civil society capability; improving citizenship access to information; influencing civil society organizations (CSOs); and monitoring by civil society organizations. Of these outputs, the project has aligned itself to three outputs (output 2, 3 and 4). The evaluation team noted that the activities had ensured access to information to young people on implementation and management of LDF and CDF projects. Young people and duty bearers including VDC members in the targeted wards were trained in various skills such as human rights and entitlements and LDF and CDF guidelines & processes, which capacitated them with skills on how to monitor implementation of LDF and CDF projects.

There is progress towards achieving good governance in LDF and CDF projects through these interventions, however, this is possible if the citizens and young people are going to advance for their rights to information access and demand accountability from the duty bearers. The evaluation team was also interested to learn whether the citizens demand their right to information on how projects such as LDF/CDF are managed. The team collected responses on whether the citizens know of their rights and demand it from duty bearers. Figure 4 indicates that 48 of the 55 respondents (87%) demanded their right to information and they were influenced by the project.

Figure 4: Young People’s Knowledge of Rights to Development and Level of Involvement of YAIO in sensitizing the young on such issues (N=55)



From this evaluation, the results indicate that the project has great relevance in enhancing civil society capability and improving citizenship access to information pathways, thereby contributing to the Tilitonse Theory of Change.

3.31 Equitability

The team observed that the results are contributing to equitability. The term equitability* is in this report defined as ‘characterized by equity or fairness; just and right; fair; reasonable: equitable treatment of all citizens.’ (Online Source: Dictionary.com). The understanding is that it had empowered VDCs in Blantyre city and young people to demand equitable treatment for all and the council implements the LDF and CDF projects. The project has trained 91 VDC members and 96 young people in LDF and CDF guidelines and processes and it has initiated dialogues with the City Council, involving the trained VDC members to advance their right to information. The project has empowered communities with information and offered a platform for feedback through monthly forums sessions and dialogue initiatives.

3.32 Accountability

The team observed that the results from the project indicates that the project has contributed to accountability in management of LDF and CDF projects in Blantyre City. For instance, initially through community assessment YAIO had concluded that communities lack access to information and were denied access to local governance processes including tracking financial expenditure. However, following stakeholder meetings, and dialogue sessions with the City Authorities and VDCs, the communities are able to track financial expenditure of various projects under LDF and CDF, and ultimately, accountability is practiced.

Picture: One of the Sessions on LDF and CDF guidelines

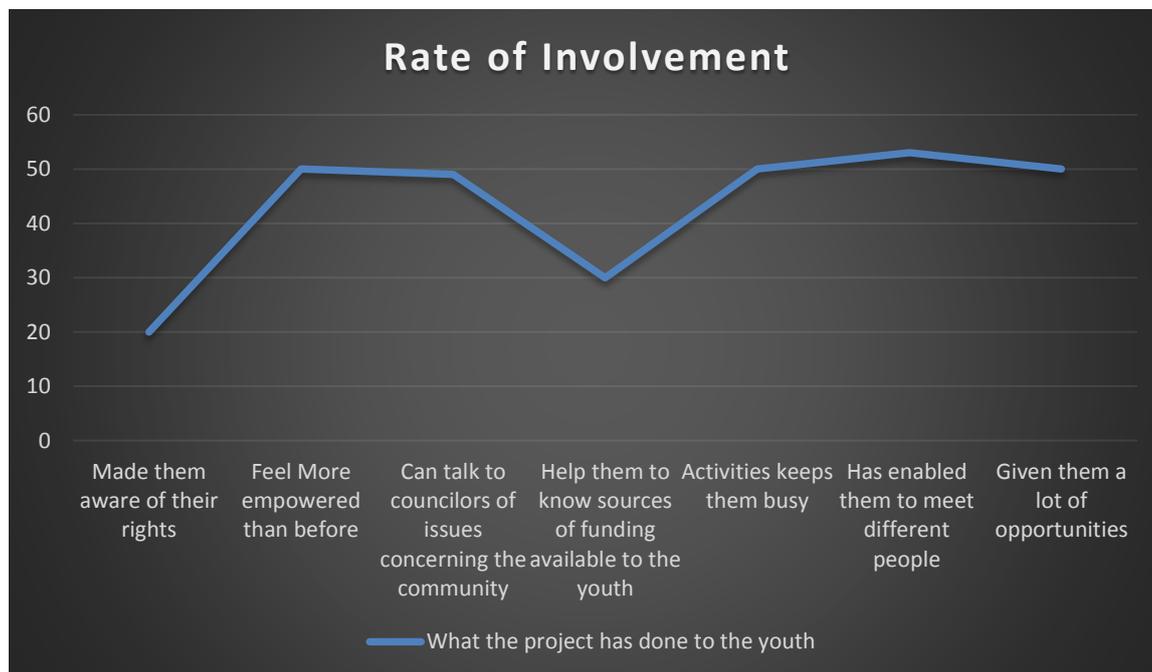


The upward accountability is being combined with downward accountability as citizens especially young people are demanding explanation on how the projects are managed.

3.33 Transparency

The influence of accountability is leading to disclosure of information to the general public. Community engagement with the city council and the various structures has improved tremendously. The evaluation team sought to understand how this has improved and how transparency will be enhanced. The team discovered that there is a lot of involvement of young people throughout the project lifespan. The following Figure 5 indicates the rate of involvement which is a recipe to transparency. It must be borne in mind that the introduction of ward councilors may have some bearing on the level of transparency at the district assembly level.

Figure 5: Rate of Involvement to Increase Transparency



From the figure, it was noted that young people are involved and have the liberty to talk to councilors on issues concerning their community. The figure shows that most of the young people felt that they were empowered through the project and were able to know sources of funding. However, the chart shows a lower rate on ‘helps them to know sources of funding available to the youth’ which means that more is yet to be done in terms of improving transparency.

3.34 Inclusiveness

The project has enhanced participation and inclusiveness of young people and the less privileged. Through advocacy meetings, local citizens are able to meet the duty bearers and discuss challenges affecting them. The project organized 5 advocacy meetings in the period which improved access of information and services to the poor and the excluded.

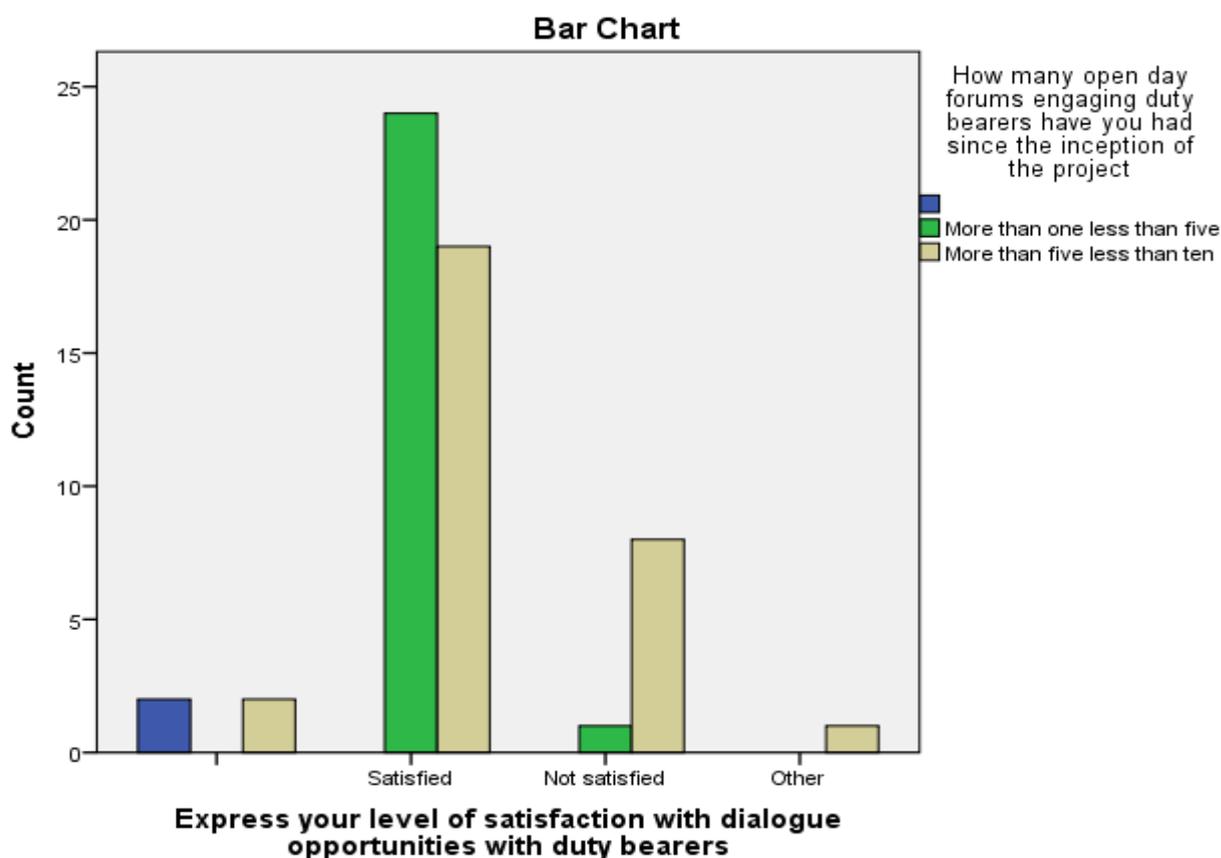
Through the project, YAIO managed to collaborate with other organizations such as Youth Active Participation (YAP) in Mbayani, Mother Theresa Child Care Centre in Chilomoni and Nancholi Youth Organization in Blantyre Central wards who provided free meeting spaces and supported in mobilizing the young people.

The project also shared information through the media to increase access and inclusiveness with the project activities being featured 30 times during the period. The project also produced two (2) information products (100 T/Shirts and 2000 leaflets) to increase awareness of citizenship access to information and empower young people’s participation in LDF and CDF project management.

In one of the Focus Group Discussion, the young highlighted the fact that the project has enabled young people to know their rights to development, provision of services by government departments like the council, rights to information as well as freedom of speech. This knowledge has helped the young people to be empowered to stand up for their rights when living and even

working within their communities and other areas. YAIO has facilitated a number of meetings and discussions which have enabled the young people to gain skills in leadership, good governance, conflict resolution as well as managing and sourcing finance. The young people are now aware that they can access funding from the council assembly to carry out youth related programs in their areas, which they had no knowledge of before. The evaluation exercise further established that young people conducted a number of number of monthly forums where governance issues were discussed. The purpose of these monthly forums was to create space for young people to discuss different issues affecting their daily living in terms of development. Questionnaire survey of the evaluation indicated that more than five forums aimed at enhancing and dialogue transparency were conducted, which saw a number of young people among whom the evaluation team had targeted attending. Figure 6 below indicate that 24 of the 55 respondents had attended more than one less than five of open days for dialogues with duty bearers to enhance accountability and transparency.

Figure 6 showing young people’s involvement in monthly forums/ open day forums where governance issues have been discussed (N=55)



The figure above indicates that 24 of the 55 respondents (44%) had attended more than one, less than five of monthly/ open day sessions, while 18 of the 55 respondents (33%) had attended more than five less than ten of Open day sessions.

3.40 The extent to which the project has contributed to Tilitonse Program outputs

The evaluation team observed that the project has contributed a lot to output 2, 3 and 4 of the Tilitonse’s Results Framework. Through the project activities, YAIO has contributed significantly to

the following outputs:

Output 2: Access to information on rights, entitlements and responsibilities improved particularly for poor and excluded citizens where the organization contributed to:

Indicator 1: Number of information products developed in funded projects

The organization developed and produced information products in terms of 100 T/Shirts and 2000 leaflets. This was also noted by the evaluation team, the young people indicated that they had knowledge of YAIO as its associated activities (Table. 3). The evaluation team wanted to test on how far the project activities have reached the general public. A questionnaire survey on knowledge of the project and YAIO attested to the fact that the citizen reach has been impressive. Results from the questionnaires administered, proved that YAIO is a well-known organization in Chilomoni, Mbayani and Blantyre Central wards and that all 55 respondents (100%) had some knowledge of YAIO as an organization as well as the project of Increasing Young People’s Participation and Voice in Blantyre City as it is indicated in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Young people’s knowledge of the Increasing Young People’s Participation and Voice project in Blantyre City (N=55)

Are you aware of the Project called Increasing young people's participation and voice in Blantyre City					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	55	96.5	100.0	100.0
Missing	System	2	3.5		
Total		57	100.0		

The evaluation team assumes that the reach was mainly through leaflet distribution and advocacy/interface meetings. An assessment of project activities with the project team led to the conclusion that the launch of the project, advocacy meetings, media advocacy, and community dialogues with duty bearers largely contributed to the citizen reach registered. However, leaflet distributions can reach a number beyond the one the distributed since a leaflet can also be shared to many users. The evaluation team also learned that the project distributed T/shirts but could not ascertain that T/shirts created this reach.

Indicator 4. Media coverage of issues addressed in funded projects

- The project had a wider coverage by the media

Sub indicator 4.1: Number of instances of media coverage of issues related to funded projects

- The project activities were featured 30 times on both print and radio

Output 3: Monitoring by Malawian organization’s of policy and budget commitments, service delivery and public resource management strengthened

Indicator 2: Number of people consulted on the quality of public services in funded projects

- 156 people (48 young people, 48 women, 48 men and 12 duty bearers) were consulted through Follow up on Local Development Fund and Constituency Development Fund, an assessment conducted from the 9th to 17th November 2016 where YAIO was assessing the extent to which young people have benefited from Local Development Fund (LDF) and Constituency Development Fund (CDF) in the past 3 years.

Indicator 3: Number of representations based on monitoring initiatives made to traditional leaders, officials responsible for public service delivery, MPs

- In five different circumstances, duty bearers including traditional leaders, VDC members and the Ward Councilors were able to attend Advocacy/interface meeting, monthly youth forums, Lobbying meetings between young people & duty bearers and the Dialogue and engagement meeting between young people and city authorities

Output 4: The engagement of Malawian organization's in influencing policies, strategies and resource allocations at local and national levels improved

Indicator 1: Number of dialogue initiatives aimed at influencing service delivery behavior policies, strategies and resource allocations

5 (Five) dialogue initiatives were conducted in form of Advocacy/interface meeting, monthly youth forums, Lobbying meetings between young people & duty bearers and the Dialogue and engagement meeting between young people and city authorities

3.50 Key lessons learned from the project intervention that can inform the design of similar projects in future.

Learning from the "Increasing young people's participation and voice in Blantyre City project", it clearly shows that the participation and involvement of young people empowers them to have a voice in decisions that affect them in relation to community issues. Participation requires that young people have actual authority and responsibility, as well as opportunities to develop the skills needed to make sound decisions. For community development projects, it means working as partners, instead of making decisions for them or only providing services to them. Young people become agents of change instead of targets to be changed. Participation and involvement of young people is both a road to better community results and a positive result in itself. Young people know and learn about their communities better and how to create better places for themselves and others to live.

The project bridged the gap that existed between young people and the duty bearers by creating a common ground for ward councillors and local leaders to collaborate in dutifully serving their constituents. Young people have been trained in youth leadership, human rights & entitlements and Local Development Fund (LDF) and Constituency Development Fund (CDF) guidelines and processes. The trainings have empowered young people with knowledge and skills on their roles and responsibilities in their communities.

The participation and involvement of young people and in the project has resulted in:

- Open dialogue between local citizens and elected representatives where local citizens including young people are engaging the duty bearers through interface meetings and dialogue sessions which is helping them to have their voices heard.
- Holding duty bearer accountable at a lower level as duty bearers especially Ward Councilors for Mbayani and Chilomoni wards are able to provide information to citizens on different development projects taking place in their wards such as the social cash transfer.
- Understanding roles and responsibilities of duty bearers and local citizens as members of local governance structures and communities are now aware of their roles and responsibilities.
- Duty bearers such as traditional leaders and ward councilors understanding their leadership roles
- VDC members and Communities understanding their roles on Local Development Fund and Constituency Development Fund and how they can identify projects to benefit from the Fund.
- Duty bearers such as traditional leaders and ward councilors open up on youth inclusion such that community leaders are willing to give space to young people to participate in local governance structures and voice out their concerns and some young people have been given space to participate in local governance structures including Village Development Committees and Health Committees. 40 young people (20 in Mbayani, 10 in Chilomoni ward have been incorporated while 10 young people in Blantyre Central Ward were nominated to be included in the local governance committees.)
- Improved working relationship and coordination among duty bearers like in Mbayani ward where there was a poor working relationship between the ward councilor and the village head during the first quarter of the project, YAIO conducted an interface meeting with him and with the involvement and support of Group Village Head Mussa Magasa, the Village head Mbayani started attending community meetings. And every time he has not been able to attend he delegate someone to be part of the meetings.
- Through the Monthly Youth Forums, the trained young people have managed to establish youth forums in their respective wards and they are meeting on their own to discuss different issues affecting their societies.

The “Increasing young people’s participation and voice in Blantyre City project” has managed to achieve its expected results by:

- Empowering young people with knowledge and skills on human, rights, governance, leadership and Local Development Fund (LDF) and Constituency Development Fund (CDF) guidelines and processes
- Creating space for young people to dialogue and engage with their duty bearers.

3.60 Evidence of change in terms of capacity resulting from mentorship support provided by Tilitonse Fund

The evaluation team looked at a number documents (reports) and conducted a number of Key Informants Interviews. The evaluation exercise noted that the Tilitonse fund provided capacity

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development through mentorship program. The exercise conducted benefited YAIO in a number of ways and areeyas including:

1. Financial Management,
2. Human recourses,
3. Monitoring and Evaluation,
4. Gender & Social Inclusion
5. Operations Logic & Technical Effectiveness.

YAIO benefited on the aspects above in the following ways:

3.61 Financial Management:

- YAIO was able to develop a financial manual for internal controls
- The organization personnel were trained in financial management and operationalization of the financial manual.
- The mentorship was provided by Mr Jones Chikoko

3.62 Human Resource:

The evaluation exercise noted that YAIO has benefited from Tilitonse Mentorship provided by Mr Felix Sanyala on human resources related issues in the following ways;

1. YAIO has been able to develop Staff Recruitment and Selection Procedures
2. YAIO has also managed to put in place Grading and Salary Structure
3. Developed Clear Job Descriptions for all its staff
4. Developed Staff Appraisal Systems
5. YAIO has developed formal Grievance and Discipline Procedures
6. YAIO has also developed clear Conditions of service for all its Staff

3.63 Monitoring and Evaluation

- The evaluation team further assessed YAIO's capacity in relation to monitoring and evaluation, the team identified that YAIO went through, orientation sessions on Monitoring and Evaluation where issues on Monitoring and Evaluation systems including plan, Performance Indicator Tracking Table, Data Collecting tools, including contribution of YAIO project to Tilitonse programme.
- The evaluation team further identified that YAIO is now able to develop a comprehensive Monitoring and Evaluation plan as well as Performance Indicator Tracking Table, this has enabled YAIO to properly monitor project related activities, and also to be able to evaluate its performance in completing project related activities.
- The mentorship was provided by Nina Ghambi

3.64 Gender & Social Inclusion:

- The evaluation team identified that YAIO went through orientation sessions on Gender and Social Inclusion, which were facilitated by Mrs Getrude Kabwazi, This has helped YAIO to develop Gender and Social Inclusion Policy

3.65 Operations Logic & Technical Effectiveness:

- The evaluation further noted that the organization received support from Tilitonse through Mr Chris Phiri to develop a Strategic Plan and Administration Manual, this has helped the organization to properly manage its operations.

From the evidence above it can be deduced that the Mentorship programmes provided by Tilitonse Fund through the different Mentors assigned to the organization has helped raise the profile of the organization in terms of capacity as the capacity gaps which were there have been filled through policy development and orientation sessions.

4.0 Conclusion and Recommendations

4.1 Conclusion

In summary, the Evaluation Team concludes that the project is very relevant as it tackles very important issues at community and City Council level. The evaluation exercise established that the project has qualitatively and quantitatively contributed in the following main areas;

1. The project has enabled young people to be empowered with knowledge and skills, it has enabled them to understand their role in ensuring that they develop a bright future for themselves and others, the project has among other things trained over 100 youths in leadership and LDF and CDF guidelines and processes.
2. The project has also enabled young people to understand their rights to information, development, as well as access to financial resources.
3. The project has also resulted in opening of effective channels for dialogue and engagement between young people and duty bearers as young people can now approach duty bearers in relevant matters affecting them as well as their communities.
4. In the area of capacity development, the evaluation team established that YAIO has benefited a lot through mentorship programs provided by Tilitonse Fund and its various stakeholders. The organizations has developed effective internal controls which helps the organization to manage its finances, YAIO has also managed to develop formal recruitment and selection procedures, grading and salary structures, clear job descriptions, a comprehensive appraisal system, grievance and discipline procedures as well as clear conditions of services for all its employees. The mentorship programs have also helped YAIO to develop a comprehensive Monitoring and Evaluation plan which has enabled the organization to continuously monitor related project activities. The organization has also been able to develop relevant policies for example the gender and social inclusion policy. The evaluation further established that through mentorship programs the organization has also developed a strategic plan, which acts as a guide when managing operations as well as logistics of project related activities.

From the results above it can also be deduced that the project activities applies to the Tilitonse Fund's theory of change initiative mainly in two important areas;

1. Enhancing capacity of the young people through empowerment
2. Improving young people's access to information by facilitating dialogue between the young people and duty bearers

The evaluation also established that the project has enabled equitability in addressing development related issues such as:

- Improved young people's participation in decision making activities
- Enabled young people who were excluded before to be included in various development related activities,
- Improve level of access to information which has further enabled activities at community level to be more transparent than before
- Increased dialogue between duty bearers and the young people has enabled the duty bearers to be accountable on issues or activities which they were not accountable for before.

The evaluation exercise also established that the project has mainly contributed to three outputs of the Tilitonse Fund's framework, the evaluation established that YAIO has improved communities' access to information of rights related issues, YAIO managed to distribute 100 T/shirts, 2000 leaflets and the project activities were featured on radio and print media 30 times.

The evaluation further established that YAIO has also managed to enhance monitoring of policy and budget commitments in the project areas, the organization reached out to 156 individuals (48 youths, 48 women, 48 men and 12 duty bearers) the main objective was to establish how the community has benefited from LDF and CDF in the past 3 years.

Finally the evaluation team also established that YAIO has contributed to improving engagement in influencing policies, strategies and resource allocations initiatives, the project achieved this through 5 dialogue meetings, monthly youth forums and as well as facilitating three (3) dialogue meetings between young people and duty bearers. To that effect the evaluation team concludes that the project has been a success overall, all the planned activities were done accordingly within the specified time, and it has also been delivered within budget.

4.2 Recommendations

The evaluation team however makes the following recommendations:

- Despite young YAIO's interventions, there are still some areas where other duty bearers such as ward councilors are usually reluctant to attend engagement meetings whenever they are invited to do so, thus it could be very important in future to arrange meetings with them in order to effectively make them understand the importance of them taking part in such activities, this will properly ensure that young people are well represented in local governance structures accordingly.
- Considering the importance of the project it could also be recommendable that similar projects should be extended to other wards in the City, the project has benefited the young people a lot in the targeted project areas and others can also have an opportunity to benefit from the same in a similar way, for example in Chilomoni ward, the project has enabled some of the young people with different talents especially music and poetry to be linked with other stakeholders within the community and be able to have an opportunity to showcase and record their work such as videos which are currently being shown on national television. If such projects are properly supported, many young people can have an opportunity to live a meaning full life and thus refrain from activities that may lead them engaging in risky behaviors that put their lives in danger. Continuity of the project would also ensure that the real impact of the project long term is evaluated accordingly.

- For continuity purposes, it could have been better if the project can be supported through establishment of youth centers in project areas, this would present a conducive environment for the young people and more importantly will allow continuity of the project related activities after phase out of project. YAIO has been able to develop structures among the youths especially the youth forums but such forums still need structures like youth centers for them to use.

5.0 Appendices

PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK

Project Name: Increasing young people's participation and voice in Blantyre City

	<i>Annualized Targets and indicators</i>				<i>Responsibility</i>
	<i>Indicators</i>	<i>Baseline</i>	<i>Target Year 1</i>	<i>Target Year 2</i>	
<p>Project Goal: To lobby for the inclusion of young people in local governance structures and participate in the designing, implementation and monitoring of CDF and LDF projects</p>	Percentage of young people represented in the 11 Village Development Committees (2 young people per VDC- 1 male & 1 female)	13.7%	0	20%	Project Management Team
	Percentage of young people that express satisfaction with the designing, implementation and monitoring of CDF and LDF	14.9%	25%	15%	
	Percentage of young people that report being consulted on CDF and LDF projects	14.9%	20%	20%	
	<i>Data Source: Data Collection Method and Frequency:</i>				
<p>Purpose Statement¹: To increase young people's participation and voice to claim their rights to CDF and LDF projects through dialogue and engagement in Mbayani, Chilomoni and Blantyre Central Wards.</p>	Proportion of engagements and dialogue meetings between young people and duty bearers on CDF and LDF projects	11.3%	1	2	Project Management Team
	Proportion of initiatives undertaken by the young people to influence changes in the management of the CDF and LDF	11.3%	0	2	
		16.1%	20	10%	

¹ The Purpose is the intermediary result. This is change from achieving and delivering on all the given outputs of a project and is much more attributable to the individual project. The Purpose statement in most case should directly relates to any of the four Tilitonse Outputs.

<i>Annualized Targets and indicators</i>					
	<i>Indicators</i>	<i>Baseline</i>	<i>Target Year 1</i>	<i>Target Year 2</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>
	Percentage of young people participating in community activities on LDF and CDF projects				
<i>Data Source: Advocacy/ Interface meeting reports and monitoring reviews reports</i> <i>Data Collection Method and Frequency:</i>					
Output 1: Young people empowered with knowledge and skills to claim and defend their rights to CDF and LDF.	Number of people attending capacity building trainings	0.113	210	120	Project Management Team
	Number of people that access information on their rights and entitlements	0.113	1200	240	
	Number of IEC materilas distributed	0.113	1300 T/shirts and leaflets	700	
<i>Data Source: Project launch report, orientation meetings reports, capacity building training report, advocacy/interface meetings report and media monitoring reports</i> <i>Data Collection Method and Frequency</i>					
Output 2: Improved dialogue and engagement between young people and duty bearers	Number of advocacy and dialogue initiatives undertaken by young people	0.113	1	2.	Project Management Team
	Number of young people taking part in advocacy/Interface meetings	0.113	0	120	
	Number of issues raised by young people and brought to the attention of the duty bearers	0.113	0	5	
<i>Data Source: Meetings and monitoring reports</i> <i>Data Collection Method and Frequency</i>					

Results Framework Activities- Activities to enable achievement of results at output level.

OUTPUT 1	Activities	Milestone yr 1	Milestone yr 2	Comment
Young people empowered with knowledge and skills	Project launch to raise public awareness of the project	1	0	Conducted as planned

to claim and defend their rights to CDF and LDF.	Orientation meetings with stakeholders (City Council officials, Local Councillors, traditional leaders, members of parliament, political leaders, young people, women, excluded groups and other local structures) to introduce the relevant stakeholders to the project workplan and solicit their support and trust for the successful implementation of the project	3	0	Conducted as planned
	Capacity building trainings will target 90 young people, women and duty bearers within community development structure. The knowledge shared will be on their rights, roles and responsibilities.	3	0	Conducted as planned
	Production of Information Education Communication materials such as T/shirts and leaflets.	1300 (100 T/Shirts and 1200 leaflets)	0	Conducted as planned
	Capacity building training on LDF and CDF guidelines, processes and the roles of young people	0	3	Conducted as planned
	Lobbying meetings between young people and duty bearers on the inclusion of young people in Local Governance Structures.	0	3	Conducted as planned
	Youth Leadership training	0	3	Conducted as planned
OUTPUT 2	Activity 1	Milestone yr 1	Milestone yr 2	
Improved dialogue and engagement between young people and duty bearers.	Follow up on LDF, CDF and other development projects in the past 5 years to assess the extent to which young people and women have	1	1	Conducted as planned
	Advocacy/ Interface meetings involving young people, women and duty bearers.	1	1	Conducted once and the remaining was replaced with new activities
	Media Advocacy through radio, news print, and Television programs: The selected media houses (i.e	8	2	Featured 26 times but the remaining were replaced with new activities

Nation publication, Times, Capital Radio, MIJ and MBC) will contribute significantly to the pool of community voices of the voiceless available as an alternative medium to public service that fosters citizen participation and help to echo public concerns and interests regarding CDF and LDF.			
Monthly supervision and field visits	9 field visits	4	5 conducted and the remaining were replaced with new activities
Quarterly meetings	3	1	1 conducted and the remaining were replaced with new activities
Capacity building training for VDCs and community leaders on LDF and CDF guidelines and processes.	3	3	Conducted as planned
Dialogue and engagement meeting with city authority on young people's inclusion in local governance structures (VDCs and ADCs)	0	1	Conducted as planned
Monthly youth forums	0	12	Conducted as planned