

Annual Progress Report

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



Project Reporting Period	July 2015 – September 2016
Project No.	143-001-1058 KH
Funded By	MISEREOR
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<p>Organization Background</p>	<p>Youth Activists Initiative Organization (YAIO) is a registered youth owned organization under the Trustees Incorporation Act, social welfare and the department of youth.</p> <p>Mission</p> <p>To research, address and share information on issues that affect and threaten the lives of Malawians more especially the young people.</p> <p>Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To promote young people’s talents and skills • To bridge the gap between parents and children • To create dialogue amongst young people and the community at large • To lobby and advocate for human rights. <p>Motto</p> <p>“Developing Creative Minds”</p> <p>Priority Areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education • Human rights, • Health • Climate change • Entrepreneurship • Life serving skills <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</p>

	<p>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 <i>user-friendly</i> 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>	<p>The Chichewa handbook has helped many young people, leaders and groups to understand better the contents of the book.</p> <p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
<p>Project Positive Impact – (Organization)</p>	<p>The project has raised organizational profile and capacity in good number of areas notably;-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With Moyo Wanga – Kuyambira Pano handbooks, YAIO has evidently reach 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 to strengthen its communication, reach and link capacity.

	<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 a 14 months local governance project targeting young people and women to participate in local development projects.
Achievements/ Results	<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. • 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. • 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 and outputs	<p>Book Translation outputs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Called to Care Handbook No.8 “ My Life - Starting Now translated from English to Chichewa • 5000 copies printed <p>Book Awareness outputs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 Book Awareness sessions conducted • 410 (200 males & 210 females) people attended the Book Awareness Sessions • 297 organizations participated • 623 handbooks distributed during book awareness sessions

	<p>Book Distribution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A total of 3276 <i>Moyo Wanga - Kuyambira Pano</i> handbooks were distributed by YAIO directly to 362 organizations through book awareness, book distribution and training of trainers workshop. <p>Monthly monitoring / field visits</p> <p>April to September 2016, 32 different organizations were visited during the monthly field mentoring and supervision visits as part of monitoring exercise to assess and learn how different organizations who received the handbook (<i>Moyo Wanga – Kuyambira Pano</i>) are using them.</p> <p>Quarterly Review meetings</p> <p>Two (2) Quarterly meetings were conducted (on the 24th June & 29th September 2016) to check and summarize the project’s implementation progress, provide achievements towards expected outcomes, identify key breakthroughs and constraints. The meeting 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.</p> <p>Lessons and learning generated during these meetings help facilitate vibrant decision making for better project results. Selected beneficiaries and actively participated.</p> <p>Training of trainers</p> <p>In August, 2016, two (2) training of trainers’ workshop of two days each were conducted. These trainings were organized to build the capacities of youth groups, community based and faith leaders in facilitation skills and how to use <i>Moyo Wanga – Kuyambira Pano</i> handbook. Participants to these workshops were from the organizations that received and benefited from the distributed handbooks during the distribution and dissemination exercise.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On the 8th to 9th August 2016, the training was conducted at HHI secondary School drawing 18 participants (12 males and 6 females) attended. • On the 30th to 31st August 2016, the training was conducted at Chikuli in Chileka drawing 22 participants (11 males and 11 females) attended
<p>Challenges</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Lack of funds to help the organization reach out to many

	communities
Risks and Opportunities	<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 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 and to expand the project to other districts.</p> <p>Though we targeted Blantyre district in the first place, YAIO also reached out to other districts such as Thyolo and Neno with the books through other organizations with similar objectives implementing different activities in those districts and the impact so far has been good</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 and Nkhatabay districts where they are implementing projects targeting young people.</p>
Monitoring	<p>Monthly field visits were conducted as part of monitoring exercise to assess and learn how different organizations who received the handbook (<i>Moyo Wanga – Kuyambira Pano</i>) during book awareness sessions and distribution activities are using the books.</p>
Conclusion and Recommendations	<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. • 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. 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 • The District Education Office requested that YAIO should have sensitizations meetings with the learners in the schools for the teachers alone do not have enough time and help with establishment of “Moyo Wanga – Kuyambira Pano clubs” in primary schools • Production of other learning materials like leaflets, radio programs, Television programs using topics from the book could help to reach the large mass.