

# PYAO NEWSLETTER

Website : <http://www.pyaomw.org>  
 E-mail Address : [info@pyaomw.org](mailto:info@pyaomw.org)

## WHAT'S INSIDE?

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### 2. PYAO visits Njalo Island

### 3. Edzi Toto clubs revamped.



Owaara yochingelra  
 owiithoni  
 thiwohwelleya.  
 Nave nihihye  
 moyowahu vooswani

## Go and track public funds—Youths told

**Y**ouths in Phalombe district have been tasked to track public funds in different developmental projects taking shape in the district as a way of ensuring transparency and accountability.

PYAO Executive Director Vincent Thom said these during a capacity building training for youth champions in the district, aimed at equipping selected youths with public expenditure tracking skills and knowledge.

Thom challenged the youths to be torch bearers in ensuring that public funds are fully utilized in the way that benefits the public.

“Through this we want to encourage youth participation in decision making, budget and policy



Pic: Richard Muluzi facilitating the training for the youth champions

processes with emphasis on public expenditure, so this is the beginning and we hope to reach out to as many youths as possible in the district,” he said.

For a start, the youth champions will assess Mambala and Minyenje Community Day Secondary School classroom block construction projects as well as Mkhumba Youth Resource Centre construction project using the comprehensive community scorecard process.

Youth Champion Moses Kathumba said many youths in the district are willing to take part in development processes, however lack of skills and technical knowledge remains the main setbacks for them.

PYAO is piloting the Public Expenditure Tracking Project in three Traditional Authority areas in the district with funds from the National Democratic Institute (NDI).



## **WORD FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**



The year 2020 brought its own highs and lows. COVID-19 has had a huge bearing on most operations in different sectors of the economy and lives. Yes we have seen the increase in the reporting of sexual violence cases but this only show there are a lot of cases happening out there. Let us not center our efforts on collecting data and trying to paint a good picture on our work while children and adolescent girls and young women are facing challenges out there.

Do we know that our adolescent girls and young women are being trafficked to towns within Malawi and Mozambique in the name of jobs, marriages and other opportunities? It is very sad to see these being victims of sexual violence and abuse, and others end up in the drinking joints doing commercial sex work.

Community Victim Support Units (CVSUs), Child Protection Committees (CPCs), Youth Clubs, CBOs, Mother Groups, Community Police Forum among others are doing a very commendable job in the fight against gender based violence. We have seen a lot of child marriages being dissolved. As we are celebrating this kind of good work, there is also need to be asking ourselves how we are going to support boys and girls rescued from the child marriages.

I am very happy now to see local governance structures and faith communities starting recognizing Y+ and their networks in the communities. This is very commendable I look forward to more coordination between these structures and Y+ networks including youth networks.

Lastly, I cannot close without giving a vote of thanks to Phalombe District Education Management office and all teachers for another commendable job done on PSLCE where the district has defended its last year's position in terms of pass rate.

Sincerely,

**Vincent Makuluni Thom**



## Youth leaders commend PYAO



Pictures : Wyson (Left), Kathumba (Centre) and Hanke (Right)

**Y**outh leaders in Phalombe district have commended PYAO for their different initiatives being implemented in the district saying they are helping in the youth development.

These leaders shown the contentment with PYAOs work when asked to analyze how the organization has done its works in the year of 2020.

District Youth Network Chairperson , Luka Wyson, said PYAO has been working with everyone including with newly established youth clubs which he said it's a sign that the organization wants to leave no one behind.

"Every youth in this district knows that there is PYAO which only shows that they are working with everyone here. They are involving every youth club in their projects.

"My plea is that those supporting them with funds should continue so that some of the problems which youths are facing in this district should be eradicated," said Wyson who also chairs Chiring Youth Club.

On his part, Nkhulambe Youth Network Chairperson , Dalitso Hanke, applauded the organization for its untimely support through the projects which are being carried out throughout the district.

According Hanke who is also Public Relations Officer for the district's youth network says through PYAO many youths have been imparted with various useful skills including public funds expenditure tracking.

" There are a lot of us who have been trained in sexual and reproductive health rights where we leant various aspects of it, and maybe you have also heard that recently youth champions have been trained in how they can track expenditure of public funds, isn't it enough?" said Hanke.

He has since asked fellow youths to use all the skills gained.

Moses Kathumba, who is Chairperson for Mkhumba Youth Network says if he is to rank some of the outstanding organisations working in the district , PYAO will be among the best considering how they involve everyone from the council up to the ordinary member of every community in the district.

"PYAO is just doing fine in this district, it takes everyone on board, look it has been bringing our leaders together talk of Members of Parliament, Councillors and chiefs in their meetings to discuss about the youth.

"We are very thankful to the management of PYAO, you can see that every project is left in the hands of youths themselves , we are expecting a lot in the future from them," said Kathumba.

In his remarks , PYAO Executive Director, Vincent Thom, said PYAO will continue engaging everyone one with youths being priority to ensure that authorities are taking issues of the youths seriously for the youth to be the winner at the end of the day.

"Our priority is a youth from Phalombe that is to see that one growing with all the human rights. We'll continue imparting them with all the knowledge needed," he said.



## Editorial Team

Articles compiled by:  
Chikondi Magalasi

+265 999 42 33 87  
+265 888 67 63 75  
[chikondimagalasi@gmail.com](mailto:chikondimagalasi@gmail.com)

Edited by:  
Sam Majamanda

+265 998 24 20 29  
+265 884 81 50 38  
[sammajamanda@yahoo.com](mailto:sammajamanda@yahoo.com)

Design and Layout  
Chikondi Magalasi

Photography  
Chikondi Magalasi  
PYAO

Executive Director  
Vincent Makuluni Thom  
+265 997 13 06 54  
+265 994 43 61 91  
+265 881 76 28 51  
[vincent.thom@pyaomw.org](mailto:vincent.thom@pyaomw.org)

**FP**  
FAMILY PLANNING  
**2020**

## PYAO reach out to Njalo Island people

PYAO has vowed to continue with its initiative of distributing family planning methods such as condoms to hard to reach communities in Phalombe.

Condoms Coordinator for PYAO, Yasin Banda, made the vow when he visited people of Njalo Island in the district where he distributed condoms to the health clinic and distribution agents at the Island.

Speaking after the visit, Banda said he noted a lot of the issues which were stated by the Island's residents and through what he observed.

"We've heard together problems which our friends face here, Imagine that they are lacking sexually transmitted infections' (STIs) medication and that contraceptives are scarce here.

"Just looking at what they've said it is also clearly that there's too much unprotected sex here so as an organisation we'll continue to be coming with many interventions here at Njalo," he said.

Child Protection Worker for Jenala, Emmerson Gama, who was among the delegates that accompanied Banda during the visit said there is a lot to be done on the Island as human rights for many children of the residents such as right to education are not being respected as most of them do not attend school .

He said : "You may see that there are a lot of children here but look they are be-

ing denied right to education, at least on health they are doing good as we have an under five clinic."

Gama urged individuals and organisations to step up and help people of Njalo Island- so that problems affecting their children should be eradicated and that their rights should continue being safeguarded.

In his remarks, Village head Chalera who is the only chief on this Island thanked PYAO for remembering his people and he urged the organisation to be making dates with the Island frequently .

"You should be coming with these condoms frequently as you know that this is a place where different people who do fishing here meet so these items will help them in protecting themselves from contracting STIs," said the chief.



**Pic: Banda (wearing a reflector) carrying offloading a carton of condoms from the wooden boat**



**Pic: condoms distribution to the agents is in progress**

Njalo Island is found to the north east of Phalombe district at the middle of the Lake Chirwa and the Island accommodates the population of not less than 700 people.





## VISION

PYAO envisions an inclusive society that values and supports full engagement of vulnerable people in civic, social, economic and environmentally healthy communities

## MISSION

PYAO invests in innovative ideas, convenes interested parties, shares its learning and advocates for change in support of young people being health, creative and fully engaged citizens



## FOCUS AREAS

SRHR | HIV and AIDS | Governance & Human Rights | Education  
Environment and Climate Justice | Livelihood Security

## STRATEGY

Advocacy | Community Mobilization | Capacity Development  
Coordination & Networking | Data and Research

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 [pyao\\_malawi](https://www.instagram.com/pyao_malawi)  
 [www.pyaomw.org](http://www.pyaomw.org)

 +265 997 130 654  
 +265 994 436 191

 [info@pyaomw.org](mailto:info@pyaomw.org)  
 [phalombeyoutharms@gmail.com](mailto:phalombeyoutharms@gmail.com)

## Council promises to address youths' concerns

Phalombe district Council has promised to address all the problems concerning youths in the district including construction of much awaited youth resources centres.

Vice Chairperson of the council, Benard Komwa, said these during an interface meeting between council members and youth champions which was organized by PYAO at Haest Lodge in the district.

Komwa said what the youth champions raised during the meeting will be presented during the next full council meeting but he has promised that the issues will be addressed.

“As a council we’ll be meeting soon and in that meeting council members will look into these issues, but as for youth resource centres that I can assure you that we’ve them in our newly developed District Development Plan (DDP) and will make sure that should be implemented,” he said.

one of the youth champions, Sasinu Tsoka, said they want the council members which include councilors, chiefs and members of parliament to take issues which they raise in different forums seriously.

“We’ve been asking for youth resource centres for so long but we are yet to get even one in this district and youth friendly health services has also been an issue as you know we do not have youth corners in our health facilities, we have also asked them to look into that,” he said.



**Pic: Traditional Authority Kaledzera (standing) answering questions from youth champions**

During the meeting the youth champions also asked the council members to consider including more youths in the development structures as stipulated in the youth policies which say 30 percent in every committee should be youths.

PYAO executive director Vincent Thom said the meeting was fruitful as the council members have promised to change in the way they see matters to do with the development of the youths in the district.

“With these kind of engagements we know it will help in achieving things that are in the DDP and I know that our councilors and chiefs have noted some of the youths’ worries and they will address them, as organization we’ll continue bringing them together and be discussing such critical matters,” said Thom.

Among the council members present at the meeting were councilors and chiefs while none of the five of Members of Parliament attended the meeting due to other commitments.



**Dolo anawara yochingelra owiithoni...**

*Musombwe wara yochingelra owithoni wakhumaka mpaa wi wakumane ni athu amodtha. Itetezeni nyekhinyu navetho muteteze athu amodtha o-ereta ya Covid-19.*



**POSITIVE ACTION**



## Y+ members want community clubs

Youths living with HIV/AIDS in the area of Traditional Authorities of Jenala and Chiwalo have appealed to the leaders to establish group village heads' based Y+ clubs.

They said this during trainings which the Phalombe Youth Arms Organization (PYAO) organized for them in their respective TAs with

The aim of the trainings was to equip the Y+ Network members with accurate information on HIV/AIDS, Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), Gender Based Violence (GBV) and Drugs and Alcohol.

PYAO's Programmes Manager, Stanford Chidule, said he was impressed with the response of the participants and he said the knowledge gap has now been filled.

"With these knowledge we know that their lives will no longer be the same as now they will be able to fight for what is right for them.

"They will also be able to stay healthier and we know that those who were taking alcohol surely will stop," he said.

On the plea for the establishment of the youth clubs per group village head, Chidule said he will inform the office of the district youth officer and the district youth network chairperson.



**Pic: part of the training in the area of the T/A Chiwalo (the picture made unclear deliberately)**

This project is being supported by funding from USA Embassy-PEPFAR

## Leaders drilled on AGYW strategy



**Pic: training session in progresss**

Leaders from different sectors in Phalombe district have been drilled on how they can deal with challenges which Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) are facing in the district.

Phalombe Youth Arms Organisation (PYAO) organized these orientations with the aim of strengthening referral and coordination among sectors and committees which put lives of adolescent girls and young women at heart.

These trained 20 leaders are from traditional authorities of Chiwalo and Jenala respectively and among them there are child protection

workers, peer educators, Area Development Committees (ADCs), peer educators, just to mention a few.

PYAO Executive Director Vincent Thom said these trained people are crucial in as far as achieving AGYW 2018-2022 strategy hence his organization decided to orient them on some of the needs of the AGYW.

“You can see that among this group we have members from ADCs which are in the forefront in development the village action plans which are master plans for the development of the whole traditional authority.

“Our girls and young women are facing so many challenges and if all these people we have orientated

can sit together and help in implementing the strategy by incorporating it in their development plans,” said Thom.

In his remarks, Assistant centre coordinator in Swang’oma education zone, Dines Tebulo, commended PYAO for the orientation saying this will help to curb challenges facing the AGYW.

“This was a fruitful orientation, there are some things which we have been putting them aside, now we know that we can coordinate with the health office to come and teach our learners about safe sex as some do not abstain.

“Knowledge gap is what has been the challenge, some of us we were not aware about this strategy, going forward we have to join hands and protect our girls and young women,” he said.

The orientations were part of the one year project called improving delivery and access to HIV services for young people living with HIV in the district supported by US embassy- PEPFAR which is expected to be completed on September 30 next year.



## 15 AGYW trained in baking skills

**A**bout 15 marginalized and vulnerable Adolescent girls and Young Women (AGYW) have been equipped with baking skills of different local foods so that they should be self dependent.

Among the foods that they were trained to cook are doughnuts, cakes and samosa in a training which was held in the area of sub-traditional authority Nyambalo.

Programmes officer for PYAO, Yamikani Kayanja, says that the program sought to help the AGYW to be able of earning something on their own to cater for their basic needs.

“We thought of coming with training here so that they should be able to learn some skills in baking, we know that whenever they bake these items they’ll be able to sell and earn money.

“You can’t talk of a wedding without a cake and some snacks, I am telling you these people their lives will never be the same again,” said Kayanja.

He has since revealed that PYAO is planning of training many girls and women across the district so that they should be economically independent.

“With the funds we are getting from our funders we will try to reach many girls and women as we can, you know jobs are scarce nowadays so we want to reach them to be independent so that men shouldn't be taking advantage of their situations,” he said.



**Pic: Participants of the training posing for a group photo with Kayanja (in white trouser)**

One of the participants Martha Thomas said the training has helped her a lot as now she will be able to venture into entrepreneurship and be able to get her day to day needs.

“I am very thankful to PYAO, I never thought that today I’ll learn and be able to bake these things, my plea is that they should also train other girls,” she said.

She added that she is going to teach some of her friends that did not get the chance to get the training in her village.



**Ohakallala  
Ohiniivelletre  
mmathani**

**mwa Covid-19**

**Itetezeni**

**Orive wako  
Ellukuluku  
etheene**



## Community impact in pictures



1. Edzi Toto club meeting in progress



2. Muluzi facilitating a meeting



3. Nambazo YFHS club



4. PYAO Annual Review meeting in progress



5. Community meeting at Njalo Island



6. PYAO communications team moving around Phalombe sensitizing the communities about the COVID-19



7. One of the participants during the baking training writing notes on the chart



## PYAO revamps Edzi Toto Clubs

A total of six Edzi Toto (No to HIV/AIDS) Clubs have been visited across Phalombe district with the aim of re-vamping and giving them support.

PYAO visited the clubs which are in the traditional authorities of Chiwalo and Jenala respectively with support from USA Embassy-PEPFAR.

Among the visited clubs are those in the primary schools of Lihaka, Dindi, Nambazo, Chitekesa, Khongoloni and Mileme respectively.

Speaking after the exercise, Programmes Manager for PYAO, Stanford Chidule said the organisation noted a lot of challenges facing the clubs which the stakeholders need to join hands and eradicate them.

“After our visit, we have observed that there are a number problems that these clubs have been encountering hence they have been inactive for some time.

“We thought of visiting them so that we should give them support and see what should be done to make them active again so that they should continue helping learners with information to do with HIV/AIDS as they had been doing in the past,” the Programmes Manager said.

Among others, Chidule said there is need to support the clubs with the recreation materials also train patrons and matrons of these clubs with new skills of how to pass the message to the learners.

He has also appealed to other partners in the district to join the organisation in the revamping exercise to enhance the knowledge.

## THE DARK SHINY DAY

*By Emmanuel Kanzimbi*

It was shinny day  
Birds sung in a special way  
Peace so overwhelming  
Laughter kept on going.

Hope was lost in a darkness  
Happiness ended up in sadness  
Home turned into a horror grave  
To survive you were brave.

Strange pandemic took the wheel  
Driven into creepy discrimination.  
Home turned into a horror grave  
To survive you were brave.

It was Covid-19,  
Friends turned into enemies  
Covid-19 changed our names  
We were discriminated.

We were forcibly isolated  
We were so hated  
We had no family  
We were called positive.

Shinny day turned dark  
Discrimination over love  
Covid-19 changed our names  
We were discriminated.





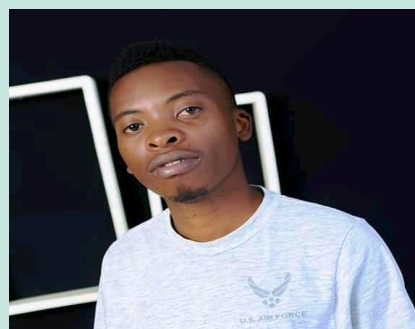
## Youths urged to follow Covid-19 preventive measures

Youths in Phalombe district have been urged not relax in following Covid-19 preventing guidelines which the Presidential Task Force on Covid-19 issued.

Communications Officer for PYAO , Emmanuel Kanzimbi, said these during assessment to see how the disease has affected other things such youth friendly health services , family planning and sexual and reproductive health and rights

Kanzimbi told the leaders to tell their youth clubs that they should be wearing masks and observe social distance all the time during their meetings so that the deadly virus should stop spreading in the district.

“My plea to the my fellow youths is that they should follow all the guidelines as stated by our colleagues from the presidential task force.



**Kanzimbi (image) asks fellow youths to mask up all the time**

youths should be protected.

In Phalombe, one person had died of the disease with over 25 cases being confirmed by the health department at the time we went to press.

“We are hearing that there’s a new variant of the virus which is spreading very fast so there is need to take these guidelines seriously,” he said.

He added that his office will continue disseminating messages to do with Covid-19 so that



## NOTICE TO OUR READERS

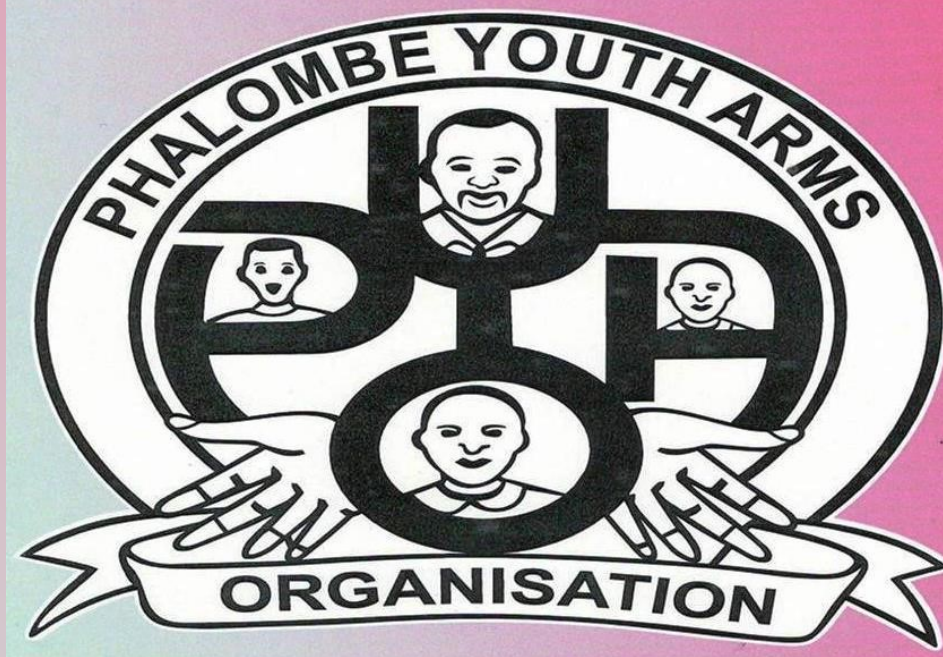
In these quarterly editions of *PYAO Newsletter* our main focus is on highlighting some of the activities that our organisation carried out within such a period of focus. There are a lot other activities which have been done between the month of October and December which were not necessarily captured in this quarterly publication.

Please don't miss anything all the time by liking our [Facebook](#) page or follow us on [Twitter](#).

*Wishing you Happy and Prosperous 2021*

**Covid-19 ehullepheliheni  
ophwanya nikavihero na  
okumi aanyu. Khaweni  
mwakohe nikaviheronno  
ninavelleliwa ochipatala  
hiyani. Makhalletro  
ohallana kambenee ya  
Covid-19 dthuwellani dtha  
ofuluwanyu va okumiaanyu**





Physical Address : Opposite Phalombe Health Centre  
Along Phalombe-Mpata-Nkhulambe Road

*Our Offices are always open from Monday- Friday (08:00AM-04:30PM)*

**Thank You for Reading Our Newsletter**



**POSITIVE ACTION**