



CENTRE FOR YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND CIVIC EDUCATION

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 2020 TO DECEMBER 2020



Centre for Youth Empowerment and Civic Education (CYECE)
Gogo Jenala Compound, Area 15
Private Bag B-349
Lilongwe 3
Malawi

WEB ADDRESS: www.cyecemw.org

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1.0. INTRODUCTION

Centre for Youth Empowerment and Civic Education (CYECE) is a Local Non-Governmental and not-for-profit organization established in March 1997. It was formed with the aim of addressing the socio-economic development issues affecting children and young people in Malawi. CYECE's development goal calls for Scaling up of interventions and efforts that protect children's rights empower young people and promote their health and wellbeing in Malawi. CYECE's programme pillars are Child Rights Promotion, Youth Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights and HIV and Youth Empowerment and Participation. The Organization uses four interlinked strategies of **Community Mobilization, empowerment, Capacity building and advocacy** to fulfill its mandate with **Meaningful Youth Participation (MYP)** as an overarching approach to all the processes and programme implementation. CYECE operates and implements its programs in Lilongwe, Salima, Dedza, Machinga, Chikhwawa, Mangochi, Mzimba, Dowa, Kasungu, Karonga, Nkhatabay, Zomba, Thyolo, Blantyre and Chiradzulu districts.

This report outlines the projects' activities, outputs, outcomes, challenges and recommendations for the period January to December 2020.

2.0. PROGRESS AND RESULTS PER STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

This section provides information on the projects implemented in relation to each one of the strategic objectives Furthermore, it provides a summary of activities implemented in the period under review and the output results achieved as measured through the relevant strategic indicators for each strategic objective as defined in the CYECE's organizational strategy.

A. Strategic Objective 1: To Promote Adolescents and Young People's Access to and Uptake of Comprehensive SRHR Information and Services

2.1.1. Projects supporting the strategic objective 1

The table below presents detailed information of projects which supports strategic objective 1;

Project name	Donor	Districts	Location (TAs)	Target group	Number of people reached	
					F	M
Rise Up and Speak Out Against Child Marriage (RISA) project	IM Swedish Development Partner	Mangochi	Nankumba Namabvi	Young people (10-23 years old)	9,899 Girls 172 Women	8,155 Boys 136 Men
Girls Empowerment for meaningful Education and Participation	ODW Finland	Salima	T/A Kuluunda	Youth	2062	1687
Promotion of SRHR and education of girls in rural Malawi project	Family Federation of Finland (FFF)	Dedza Mangochi	Kachindamoto Kamenyagwaza Namabvi Makanjira	Girls, Boys	3419	1736
Get Up Speak Out (GUSO) project	Choice for Youth and Sexuality Netherlands	Chikwawa Mangochi	Lundu Chimwala	Young People aged 10-24	26,520	28,874
GEAS	Rutgers Netherlands	Chikwawa and Blantyre	Lundu, Ngabu, Blantyre Urban	Standard Six Learners,	2,810	2106

				School Management Committee members, Mothers groups, government stakeholders		
HSAP	AMREF Health Africa-Malawi	Chitipa, Ntchisi, Mangochi	TA Makanjira, TA Kasakula and TA Wenya	Teachers, School Management Committee members, and Ministry of Education	112	89
TOTAL NUMBER REACHED BY GENDER					44,994	42,783

2.1.2. Summary of activities done in relation to strategic objective 1

The following are the activities which have been carried out under strategic objective 1;

a) Capacity Building

CYECE conducted some capacity building interventions in order to build the capacity of young people for them to be able to access SRHR information and services. CYECE conducted trainings targeting girls, young women, boys, youth clubs, CSOs, local structures, matrons, mother groups and other school related structures on SRHR, Peer Education, Life Skills, Advocacy, Social Accountability Monitoring, child marriages awareness campaigns, Case management, menstrual hygiene, sanitation and making of re-usable pads.

b) Advocacy and Lobbying

CYECE has over the period conducted some advocacy and lobbying activities to realize the expectations of this strategic objective. Some of the activities which the organization has carried out includes lobbying and supporting SRHR outreach visits to youth clubs by health workers in hard-to-reach communities, youth led community activities on SRHR and child marriages, awareness campaigns and review and formulation of community bi-laws at T/A level. Furthermore, the organization has also facilitated the establishment of Child Protection Referral Networks of community actors to monitor implementation of community by-laws through regular review meetings and follow ups of reported cases. CYECE has also conducted interface forums between young people and adults to discuss child marriage issues, sexual gender-based violence as well as teenage pregnancies. As an output of these interventions, CYECE carried out an exercise on documenting and dissemination of best practices including developing, printing and disseminating child marriage campaign IEC materials for the Ending Child Marriage Campaigns.

2.1.3. Output results achieved so far :1 indicators' targets

During the year 2020, CYECE has managed to reach out to a total of 38,720 young people (**20,482 females and 18,238 males**) with knowledge and information on SRHR. Furthermore, CYECE has managed to provide SRHR and other family planning services to 34,745 young people. In addition, CYECE has also reached out to 492 young people with disability trainings on SRHR.



Advocacy and Lobbying meetings with community Gatekeepers at Mazengera and Khongoni ADC

2.1.4. Outcomes achieved per Strategic Objective 1

Overall, CYECE has managed to build the capacity of young people as advocates for SRHR and Child protection within their communities. The trainings have largely focused on Rights Based Approach to ensure that the creation of a community that is responsive to the SRHR needs and aspiration of young people. The Youth club members have been engaging service providers, traditional leaders and other duty bearers holding them accountable for their performance in public services delivery.

The organization has also done some commendable work around economic empowerment aspects for vulnerable families so that they are able to support children to remain in school. Many communities have been trained in vocational skills training, supported with seed capital for IGAs in form of goats, being trained on soya milk production and being provided with milk processing kits, drip kit irrigation materials for home gardening among others in order to improve their livelihoods and so that they provide support towards their children’s education needs.

The organization also considered supporting the girls in addressing some of the challenges that they face with regards to absconding classes during the time that they experience menstrual periods. Girls and young women are able to make reusable sanitary pads and some are even training others on how to make the reusable sanitary pads, for instance, Mwaiwawo Banda from Domirabay in T/A Kuluunda, like most of the girls and young women, has produced 10 pads and 20 liners shared some to her sisters to appreciate the importance of using the reusable sanitary pads while training them to make their own. Due to the training that was done on making of reusable sanitary pads for the Mother groups and girls clubs, more girls and women across the catchment area are asking to be trained as well after hearing from their friends, hence, the trained girls and young women with help from mother groups have been training fellow girls and young women. During the supervision of the trainings organized by the trained girls and young women, it was reported that the girls and young women prefer and are using the reusable sanitary pads over the disposable pads or forded cloths locally known as nyanda, as they are comfortable, hygienic and cost effective as they are hand made using locally available resources.

CYECE has also been engaging the traditional leaders and parents to lead in fighting child marriages and ending sexual gender-based violence within their communities. For example, stakeholders conducted interface forums and dialogue sessions to discuss issues that affect girl’s education focusing on teenage pregnancies and child marriages. Parents and their children have improved their communication on SRHR and young people especially girls are becoming more confident to discuss these issues with their parents, girls have also been empowered to rise up, speak out and reject practices

and beliefs that promote child marriage and teenage pregnancies in their communities. Considering the challenges that Covid-19 has caused in Malawi, CYECE trained young people to among other things embrace technology by going digital through Radio programs to disseminate information on SRHR on how it has been affected by Covid-19 as one way of ensuring that there is still continual flow of information and awareness on where the youths can access services during the pandemic, in return reducing on cases of teenage pregnancies and STIs. CYECE has been able to support programs encouraging young people to still go and access various SRHR services from their nearest health centres to protect themselves even amidst Covid-19 while also disseminating Covid-19 preventive measure. Through provision of PPEs it has helped create a safe environment for youths to still convene in their youth clubs where they still share information and peer educators and YCBDAs still continue to deliver services such as condoms.

Planned Target Vs Achieved in the period

a) Indicator 1.1: Number of young people aged 10-35 reached with quality comprehensive SRH information

Planned Target (Annual)	Achieved (Jan-Dec,20)	Achieved %	Status
14,000	38,720		

b) Indicator 1.1: Number of Young People aged 10-35 reached with quality comprehensive SRH information

Type of SRH Service	Total	Male	Female
SRH related services	25,788	13,030	12,758
HIV/AIDS related services	8,957	2658	6,299

A. Strategic Objective 2: To ensure that all children are protected from all forms of violence, abuse and exploitation and have access to inclusive quality basic and secondary education

2.1.5. Projects supporting the strategic objective 2

Project name	Donor	(districts)	Location (TA's)	Target group	Number of people reached	
					M	F
Support for the Action for the Most Marginalized children Education (SAME)	Comic Relief	Salima	Mwanza, Khombedza	Most marginalized children (child labours, orphans, street children, survivors of child marriage, children with disabilities etc.)	1591	1635

Support for school feeding initiative in primary school in tobacco growing areas	Philip Morris International	Dowa Mchinji	Chulu and Mkomachilolo primary schools	In-school boys and girls (Primary school children from standard 1 to 8)	512	532
After school initiative	Alliance One	Dowa Kasungu	Kayembe Santhe	In-school boys and girls (Primary school children)	1209	1135
Girls Empowerment for Meaningful Participation in Education (GEMPE)	ODW	Salima	Kuluunda Makanjira	Adolescent Boys and Girls, Young Women	1687	2062
YES I DO	CHOICE for Youth and Sexuality	Machinga	Liwonde	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people • Community structures • Community members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 460 • 138 • 297 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 519 • 129 • 317
Promotion of SRHR and girl's education in rural Malawi	FFF	Dedza and Mangochi	Kamenyagwaza, Kachindamoto, Namabvi and Makanjira	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Girls and boys 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 374 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 864
TOTAL					6,268	7,193

2.1.6. Summary of activities done in relation to strategic objective 2

The following are the activities which have been carried out under strategic objective 2;

a) Community mobilization and awareness campaigns

CYECE conducted community mobilization and awareness campaigns in order to raise awareness on the need for people to take part in promoting SRHR and education issues for children and young people. Some of the activities which were involved includes community dialogue sessions on child marriage and teenage pregnancies, conducted Youth Week of Action, youth-led community awareness meeting on education and child rights related issues, child marriage and teenage pregnancies and also awareness campaigns on the rights of Children with Disabilities (CWDs).

b) Capacity building trainings, workshops and forums

In order to build the capacity of both young people and the community, CYECE conducted training of child protection committees on child rights, laws and policies on child rights and also child abuse case management as well as training of girls and young women, boys, including girls with disability on SRHR, meaningful youth participation, the importance of education, child rights etc. Furthermore, CYECE conducted role modelling sessions, established counselling spaces in schools but also supported the Child Protection Committees with visibility, mobility means e.g., bicycles, t-shirts and caps. CYECE has

also further supported girls' clubs and youth clubs with sporting materials e.g., balls, Bawo, draft, Chess board and jerseys.

c) Advocacy Campaign meetings and Dialogues

CYECE conducted a number of activities under this focus area with the aim of engaging stakeholders and policy makers on SRHR issues for young people. Some of the activities done were advocacy campaigns on inclusive girls' education and participation, support review and formulation of community bylaws at T/A Level, Mother-daughter camps, Girl discussion forums in school, Peer education sessions for girls, Boy's dialogue sessions on girl's rights facilitated by trained male champions and advocacy meetings with traditional leaders among others.



Girls Engagement Forums to empower them towards achieving their ambitions and aspirations

d) School Feeding

During the period, CYECE with support from Phillip Morris International (PMI) implemented a School Feeding initiative in Dowa and Mchinji districts. Some of the activities that were carried out includes construction of kitchens at Mkomachilolo and Chulu Primary schools, project briefing meetings with District Executive Committee Officials and heads of District Council Department in Kasungu (Mchinji Growing Area) and Dowa District, project briefing meetings with Area Development committee, Village Development Committee, Government extension workers, School and Management Committee and local leaders in Mchinji and Dowa District and Construction of a maize miller/Sheller shelters and Installation at Mkomachilolo and Chulu Primary school, capacity building Trainings for school related and community structures on the management of the school feeding programme and the infrastructure i.e. the maize miller etc., engage targeted communities and schools to provide land for maize, groundnut, soya and vegetable growing, support the schools to establish school vegetable gardens and Bread making for project sustainability. Furthermore, the initiative covered the preparation and provision of school meals for learners in the targeted schools.



Distribution of Soya Flour for the school feeding initiative -Maize miller as part of IGA for the School feeding

e) Establishment of Children Play Centres

Under this area, CYECE with support from Alliance One Tobacco Company and Limbe Leaf Tobacco Company initiated Children Play Centre in the tobacco growing communities in order to contribute towards reduction of child labour. The project was implemented in Dowa and Mchinji districts. The activities included Installation of play centre materials, supply of sporting materials, supply of indoor games, training for the coordination of physical exercises and extra murals among others. The activities have helped to increase school enrolment in the targeted communities.

2.1.7. Output results achieved per Strategic Objective: 2 indicators’ targets

During the period January to December 2020, CYECE has managed to reach out to a total of 13,461 people **(7,193 females and 6,268 males)** with knowledge and information on education and children’s rights. Furthermore, CYECE has managed to engage over 90 government officials and community leaders with regards to education, SRHR, child labour and child marriage information. The initiative has also managed to train 664 matrons and mother group members on menstrual hygiene, sanitation and making re-usable pads. 213 Establishing parent’s clubs /committees of CWDs groups at T/A level and that 14 disabled people’s Organizations were also engaged to share experiences. So far, the trained women are generating an average of MK 25,000.00 every week from the bakery and maize mill at Mkomachilolo and Chulu primary schools.



Play Centre activities aimed at keeping children very busy to refrain from child labour activities

2.1.8. Outcomes achieved per Strategic Objective 2

The implementation of the activities under this strategic objective have helped the organization to establish a good working relationship between young people and other community structures. Young people are identifying child protection issues and engaging the child protection committee for effective case management. They also help to report the cases to police and follow up on the cases. Committees like those depend on youth clubs for identification of cases and follow up mechanisms for cases. In addition, the activities have helped community members to open up and discuss issues that were perceived sensitive that they could not discuss even with their children.

Youth clubs through the youth network are also able to organize themselves to conduct social accountability monitoring exercises on different issues in regards to ending of child marriages and teenage pregnancies. Young people have been empowered to follow up on child rights violation cases, hold their community leaders accountable to the commitments that they made to make sure that their communities are free from all forms of child labor, Teenage Pregnancies, Child Marriages and gender-based violence. This has also strengthened their advocacy strategies. The different interface meetings conducted are also helping the chiefs to be able to enforce community by-laws that were developed and that perpetrator of child marriages are being punished accordingly.

The activities have also helped the communities, community leaders and young people to be able to identify and report child rights violations happening within their communities for the law to take its course. Chiefs and faith leaders are working together with youth clubs and other community structures to end child marriages and fight all forms of sexual gender-based violence within their communities. Youth clubs are mobilizing girls to return back and enroll in school. During the reporting period of January to March 2020 alone, 81 girls in salima were encouraged to go back to school by youth club and 30 of them have returned to school and learning. Despite the threat of the corona virus, many community members showed positive attitude towards elimination of all child rights violations and abuse including child marriages and teenage pregnancies. Community members were able to report to duty bearers and other authorities those deemed to be promoting child marriages. Additionally, the closure of schools due to COVID-19 posed a threat to girls education, but due to the community understanding of the importance of education, most community members were able to speak of the need to ensure that girls are protected and return to school when schools opened. implementation of various activities during the period has helped teachers to conduct community monitoring and door to door visits to provide counselling to parents and children while at home. Likewise, PTA's and SMC's sensitize parents on the benefits of education.

The intervention therefore has helped in terms of enrolment of the children in schools for example the school feeding initiative at Chulu and Mkomachilolo primary schools has increased tremendously. The school attendance for Mkomachilolo rose from 83% in 2019 to 98% in 2020.



Community engagement meetings with stakeholders



Distribution of Soya Kit to promote nutrition for learners

Planned Target Vs Achieved in the period

a) Number of Vulnerable and Most Marginalized Children supported and type of support provided against the target for the period

Planned Target (Annual)	Achieved (Jan-Dec,20)	Achieved %	Status
2000	3621		

Districts	Type of Support	Annual Targets	Total # of children supported	Disaggregation by gender (sex)	
				BOYS	GIRLS
Machinga	Provision of Scholastic materials	0	24	10	14
	Withdrawn from Child Marriages	0	19	9	10
Salima	Visibility Materials (T-shirts, Caps and Posters)	9 Clubs	405	113	292
Salima	Sporting Materials (Football, Netball, Volleyball Nets and Balls)	16 clubs	All learners in 16 schools and 6 transitional centers	16	16
Salima	Scholastic materials	6 Transitional centres	910	531	394
Dowa	School feeding program	2300	1044	512	532
Mchinji	School feeding program	2300	876	517	359
Dedza	Scholastic materials	109	134	51	83
Dedza	School fees	-	30	-	30
Mangochi	Scholastic materials	100	141	37	104
TOTAL				1,787	1,834

B. SO3: To promote empowerment of young people for meaningful participation in social and economic development

2.1.9. Projects supporting the strategic objective 3

Project Name	Donor	Districts	Location (TA)	Target Group	Number of people reached	
					M	F
Integrated Adult Education (IAE)	DVV	Lilongwe Dedza	T/A Kasumbu, T/A Kalumbu and T/A Mtema	Youth women and	552	621
Youth Participate Program	NOREC	Lilongwe	T/A Kalumbu	Young People aged 10-24	1	5
Girls Empowerment for meaningful	ODW	Salima	T/A Kuluunda	Youth	1215	1079

Education and Participation						
YES I Do (YID)	Choice for Youth and Sexuality	Machinga	Liwonde	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people • District stakeholders and community members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 98 • 44 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 106 • 51
Strengthening the functionality of ADC'S in Lilongwe district council for improved service delivery and accountability	USAID and UKAID through DAI	Lilongwe	Lilongwe District Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADC (22) 	N/A	N/A
GUSO	Choice and Youth for Sexuality	Chikwawa And Mangochi	Lundu And Mangochi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10-24 Youths 	130	268
TOTAL					2,040	2,130

2.1.10. Summary of activities done in relation to Strategic Objective 3

The following are the activities which have been carried out under strategic objective 3;

a) Capacity Building Trainings for young people and community structures

As a way of ensuring that we achieve the strategic objective of promoting empowerment of young people for their meaning participation in social and economic development, CYECE conducted a number of activities to ensure that young people are well prepared for community level engagement with local and national policy makers for meaningful inclusion in national and local development processes. Some of the activities carried out were for example of community structures such as District Technical working groups, PTAs, CMCs, CBOs, CSOs and young people on the concept of Meaningful Youth Participation (MYP), training of girls and young women on life skills, leadership and entrepreneurship.

b) Formation and training of youth groups and cooperatives in non-formal education and entrepreneurship

In the year CYECE facilitated formation of youth cooperative groups in Dedza, Lilongwe and Mangochi districts. A total of 44 groups were formed and supported in the year. Support included trainings in non-formal education, business management, entrepreneurship and agri-business as well as provision of business startup materials for agro based entrepreneurship and businesses among others. Below are some of the activity pictures for the work done in the year.



Participants demonstrating production and packaging of soy milk after the training



Some of the beneficiaries of OFSP showcasing the progress of their vegetable garden in Mtakataka

c) Advocacy and Collaboration

CYECE engaged the young people and community structures with advocacy engagements to ensure that young and community structure are able to speak about issues affecting young people and children. Some of the activities done are conducting symposiums on Child Marriages at community level, supporting girls' clubs and youth clubs with sporting materials e.g., balls, Bawo, draft, Chess board and jerseys, conduct advocacy campaigns on inclusive girls' education and participation, conduct awareness meetings on child rights and girl participation, conduct community mobilization meetings as well as carrying out youth led social accountability monitoring on youth friendly health services among others.

2.1.11. Output results achieved per Strategic Objective:3 indicators targets

CYECE has managed to reach out to a total of 4,170 people (**2,130 females and 2,040 males**) with knowledge and information on education, good governance, leadership, life skills and SRHR. Furthermore, CYECE has managed to reach out to a number of young people with capacity building skills to engage policy makers for meaningful participation in decision making processes. The organization has also distributed some materials such as netballs, footballs, bawo, Chess board, jerseys, T-Shirts, Caps, to promote community level activities and keep young people and children busy.

2.1.12. Outcomes achieved on Strategic Objective 3

CYECE has over the period noted a great shift in the way how certain things have been done by different community stakeholders as compared to the way they were done before the intervention in their communities. For example, the interventions have helped in terms of strengthening the youth-adult partnerships as young people and adults are able to accommodate each other in different activities and are able to conduct activities together in all levels of planning, implementation, monitoring reporting and evaluating different projects.

Furthermore, the activities implemented over the period of 2020 have strengthened knowledge on meaningful youth participation by both district and community members through various engagements, many young People are able to make decisions and review policies that they use to make sure that they become meaningfully engaged. The other interesting issue is that the youth clubs through the youth networks are able to organize themselves to conduct Social Accountability Monitoring exercises on different issues in regards to ending of child marriages and teenage pregnancies. However, young people trained in SAM have continued to engage their peers to assess the quality and comprehensiveness of SRHR services in the health centres near them and making recommendations for action to health service providers in their communities through pushing for the need to resume the provision of outreach services by creating a joint schedule for the outreaches especially targeting the youth clubs to ensure that there was protection of young people. As such, young people have been empowered to follow on cases, hold their community leaders accountable to the commitments that they made to make sure that their communities are free from all forms of Teenage Pregnancies and Child Marriages among other things.

CYECE has further noted that girls are attending and participating in decision making structures at community level. The youth club activities have contributed to girls attending and participating in decision making structures for example since January 2020, 12 girls who are not members of youth clubs participated and took part in decision making structures at community levels. 59 girls who are members of different youth clubs are members of different decision-making structures at community level such as mother groups, VDC, Nutrition village committee, village disaster committee, child care group, SMC and CPC.



Children during Play Centre activities to promote learning while fighting child labour in Malawi

Planned Target Vs Achieved in the period

a) Number of Young People reached with vocational, entrepreneurial and MYP skills 3000

<i>Planned Target (Annual)</i>	<i>Achieved (Jan-Jun,20)</i>	<i>Achieved %</i>	<i>Status</i>
3,000	4,170	To check the info here	To provide info here

3.0. ADVOCACY AND COMMUNICATION

3.1. Social Media

As a way of ensuring the promotion of organizational visibility on the work that it is doing, CYECE communications department has managed to boost its social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram and Twitter). With the constant posting of many updates and inviting other people to like the pages, there has been a wide range of followers and constant likes, retweets and comments. The department has also ensured that there are more engagements from old and new followers on social media platforms i.e., retweeting, sharing and commenting on updates.

Planned targets versus achieved in the period Jan-Dec 2020

Platform	Planned Targets	Achieved
Website	60, 000 visitors	75,180 visitors
Facebook	2, 000 (1,000 followers 1, 000 likes)	2,670 (1,475 followers 1,195 likes)
Twitter	500 followers	1240 followers
Instagram	500 followers	980 followers

The following are some of the notable achievements that have been seen over the period January to December 2020;

- The CYECE Facebook page currently has 4,478 likes and 4,808 followers. In addition, 33% of the audience is aged from 25-34. 47% of the audience is located in Lilongwe, 27% in Blantyre and 6% in Mzuzu. Furthermore, the page has been rated 5/5 in terms of engagement with the audience and 100% at responding to comments and messages made by the general public page reply. 4,478 likes 4,808 followers
- Twitter account has 323 followers and Instagram has 306 followers
- CYECE website has 211,681 visitors on the site since start and on a daily to weekly basis the numbers have grown with 450 to 1500 visitors per week and the static (in this case consultant controlled) website was hard to make quick and important updates to the site but a new and improved input and output system has been set up for the site run and controlled by user admin accounts that are in charge of the content shared, this is called an application server that runs on the website to control the content. With the coming of the app server there have been several functions that have been added to the system to help better the experience of the site when being accessed by a visitor.

3.2. Networks and Affiliations

During the period under reporting, CYECE participated in activities organized by networks to which it is affiliated. Below is a table showing the networks which CYECE is affiliated to and the level of the partnerships;

Name of Network	Status of Affiliation	Level
NGO GCN	Maintained	Local
CSEC	Maintained	Local
CONGOMA	Maintained	Local
MEJN	Maintained	Local
Malawi SRHR Alliance	Maintained	Local
Malawi All In All Learning	New	Local
NGO CCR	Maintained	Local
African CSO League on SRHR	Maintained	Regional
Regional Advisory and Advocacy Group on Ending Child Marriages	New	Regional
CRNSA	Maintained	Regional
Yes I Do Alliance	Maintained	Regional
More than Brides	Maintained	Regional

3.3. Strategic Meetings of Political Relevance

CYECE participated in few zoom meetings which are of political relevance to the organization’s focus areas. Some of the meetings were organized by the Regional Advocacy Advisory Group (RAAG) on ending child marriage, SADC People’s Summit. However, it has to be noted that CYECE only attended very few meetings due to the impact of Covid-19.

4.0. KEY CHALLENGES

The implementation of various activities in our catchment areas has not been spared from many challenges out there. The following are some of the key challenges which the organization has met;

- **Covid-19 Pandemic**

The Covid-19 pandemic has been one of the critical challenges which affected implementation of project activities during the period January to December 2020. Due to the threat of the pandemic, many activities were called off in order to comply with the set guidelines as a way of minimizing contact to avoid further spread of the Covid-19. This also affected the delivery of SRHR information and services among young people but also education since schools were closed while gatherings of more than 20 people were discouraged. It further transpired that Malawi registered increased cases of teen pregnancies and child marriages resulting in high school drop-outs because the delivery of SRHR services and education was abruptly due to the Covid-19 restrictions.

- **Bad weather conditions**

During the period, CYECE encountered a number of unsuitable weather conditions which have negatively affected the delivery of information and services to its intended beneficiaries. At times some activities

were called off as the project staff could not manage to reach especially the hard-to-reach areas due to floods and heavy downpours.

- **Expectations of Stakeholders**

The other challenge which the organization encountered during the year 2020 was expectations of stakeholders when they participate in CYECE project activities. Many stakeholders were expecting too much from the project which was not within what the project could provide. This behaviour negatively impacted on the projects because in some instances some stakeholders could not accept activities to continue unless their expectations were met. However, the organizers had to engage and negotiate with a recommendation that their expectations will met in the subsequent events.

- **Transport**

CYECE does not have adequate vehicles to carry out project activities in all its catchment areas since the policy of some donors do not permit procurement of vehicles. As such, some activities could not be implemented as planned because we did not vehicles to use during field activities as some of the areas which we implemented activities are hard-to-reach and the road terrane is very bad. However, in other districts CYECE had to borrow district council vehicles only when they were available.

- **Political instability due to fresh presidential elections and the court case**

The Post 2019 general elections violence and election court case had been one other challenge which affected the delivery project activities in the year 2020. The situation got worse when the Constitutional Court nullified the 2019 Presidential elections and order for the Fresh Presidential Elections (FPE). During the period, much focus and attention of the people was on demonstrations and campaigns to have the FPE done and this did not offer an opportunity for most of our activities to be carried out. However, after the Fresh Presidential Elections (FPE) were done, the situation stabilized and there was peace.

5.0. KEY LESSONS LEARNT

The following lessons are being drawn and proposed moving forward;

- ❖ Meaningful Youth Participation (planning, implementation and monitoring) in youth-targeted interventions enhances young people's ability to own, support and advance child protection initiatives in their communities.
- ❖ Providing relevant information, skills and tools to adolescent girls is an important strategy to empower them to speak for themselves on issues affecting them and also become agents of change in their communities.
- ❖ Absence of a vibrant child registration system can frustrate efforts against child marriage for example, some under-aged girls were allowed to register towards the elections for them to be allowed to vote and once their ages are queried when addressing child marriage matters, their modified ages justify their marriage.
- ❖ Involvement of beneficiaries in the fight against teenage pregnancies and child marriages has worked and should be maintained.
- ❖ Use of trained Community leaders as champions for youth SRHR and MYP is effective because they are able to help in advocating for the inclusion of young people as well as Youth SRHR.
- ❖ Joint project implementation and monitoring of activities with partners, district and community stakeholders is very key for effective delivery and sustainability of the project

- ❖ Effective enforcement of community by laws at the community level can help promote inclusive education, SRHR and meaningful youth participation of the most marginalized children education and the youth.
- ❖ The involvement of District Council stakeholders in all the activities and at every stage of implementation enhances project ownership and promotes sustainability beyond project implementation.
- ❖ Clarity on project expectations among stakeholders minimizes wrong expectations

6.0. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In conclusion, CYECE would like to express its appreciation to development partners and stakeholders for the continued support that it received in the year 2020. Regardless of the fact that the Covid-19 pandemic caused serious panic and trouble with regards to project implementation, CYECE continued to enjoy the massive support from the development partners and stakeholders. The achievements which the organization has made in the year 2020 have been largely attributed to the support from partners and stakeholder.

Going forward, CYECE feels certain things ought to be done in order to improve the work performance in the coming year to ensure that the activities done by the organization should continue complimenting government efforts to achieve local, national and global development agendas. The following recommendations are therefore being made;

- There is need to devise innovative means of Project implementation so that in the event of unforeseen calamities like Covid-19 can be well managed and prevented to avoid affecting the realization of project outcomes.
- There is a need to adhere to work plans to implement activities in time to prevent pileup of activities in the course of facing challenges that can completely prevent implementation and also ask donors to be flexible to adjust implementation in case were implementation was stopped.
- The school feeding initiative has helped the community to own the project as they are getting involved in the implemented of the project activities. The provision of Soya Vital Meal has helped to reduce children absenteeism in class due to lack of food and parents are encouraging their children to go to school.
- Development and distribution of IEC materials to project stakeholders. Some of the IEC materials like T-shirts and posters will assist peer educators deliver effective peer education sessions to their colleagues. The IEC materials will also act as motivation to other stakeholders since they will act as incentives
- The world is shifting to digital approaches, it is important to also consider SRHR programming strategies to also include the use of digital platforms to engage young people and also disseminate SRHR information.