



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

CENTRE FOR YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND CIVIC EDUCATION

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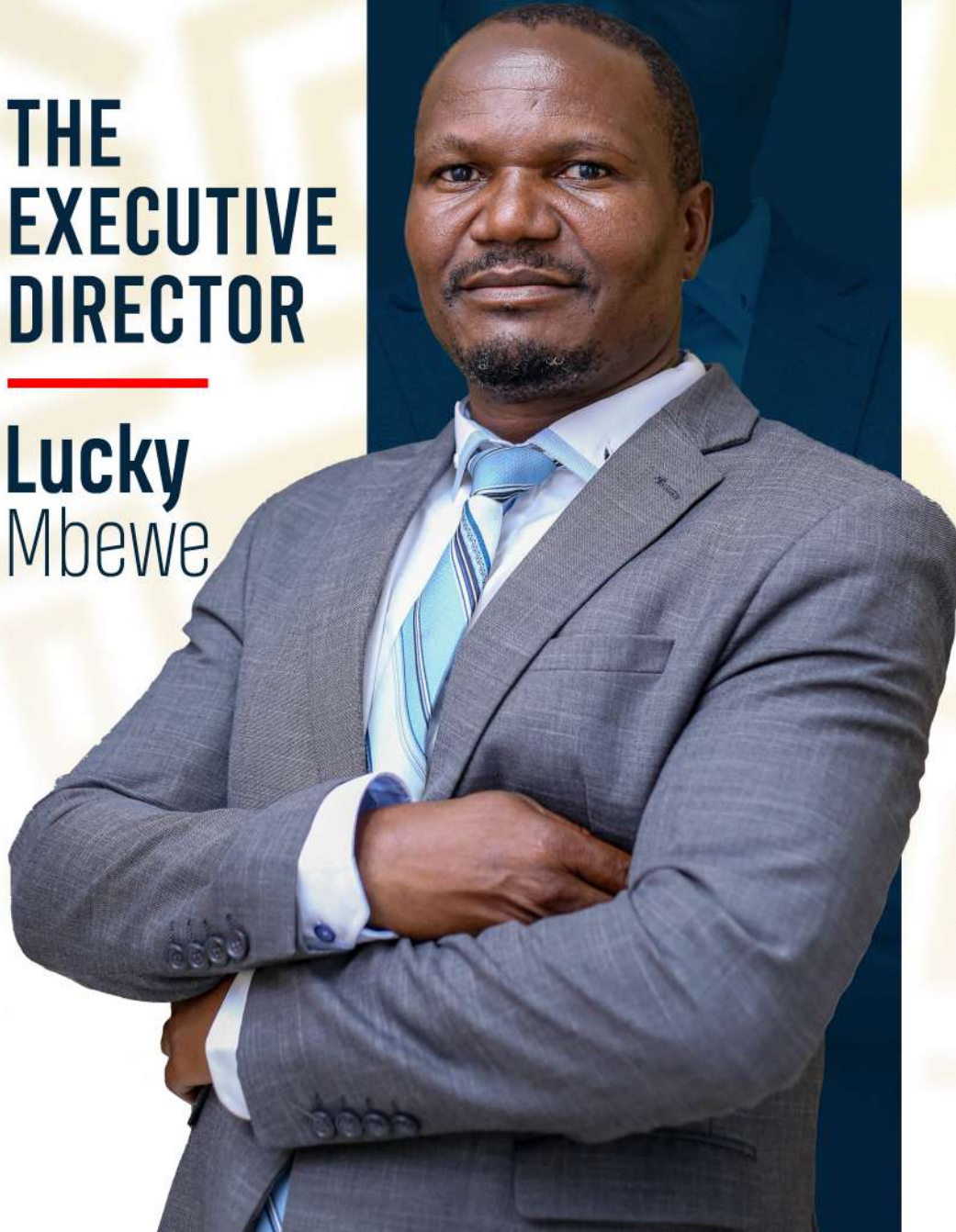
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THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Lucky
Mbewe**



WELCOME NOTE

It is with great honor that I welcome you to the CYECE Annual Report for 2024. As we reflect on the past year's achievements, challenges, and milestones, we are reminded of the collective efforts that continue to drive our mission forward—empowering children, youth, and communities through impactful interventions in health, education, and child protection.

The year 2024 was one of resilience, collaboration, and progress. Our programs have expanded their reach, our advocacy efforts have yielded meaningful policy engagements, and our partnerships have strengthened our ability to effect sustainable change. We have witnessed remarkable transformations in the lives of the children and youth we serve, thanks to the unwavering commitment of our team, partners, and donors.

At CYECE, we remain committed to fostering a future where every child and young person has the opportunity to thrive. Our approach is rooted in inclusivity, innovation, and evidence-based solutions. As you explore this report, we invite you to celebrate with us the strides we have made and to continue standing with us as we strive for even greater impact.

We extend our sincere gratitude to all our stakeholders—government agencies, development partners, civil society organizations, and community leaders—for your steadfast support. Your collaboration is the cornerstone of our success.

We look forward to another year of progress and shared commitment to the well-being and empowerment of children and youth in Malawi.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lucky Mbewe', located at the bottom right of the page.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2024 Annual Report highlights the achievements and impact of CYECE's work in promoting the rights, health, and empowerment of children, adolescents, and youth across Malawi. Through strategic interventions in child rights promotion, adolescent and youth health, and youth development, we have strengthened community-based structures, enhanced service delivery, and fostered meaningful youth participation.

Child Protection and Development

400 

Over 400 community members trained in child protection mechanisms, leading to improved case reporting and resolution. Schools were equipped with new kitchens, play areas, and gardens to support child learning and well-being.

SRHR and HIV/AIDS Awareness

1,100 

Over 1,100 community leaders engaged in dialogues on family planning and reproductive health, positively shifting attitudes toward contraceptive access among youth.



Youth Development and Empowerment

The Youth Researchers Academy trained young leaders in research methodologies, enabling them to influence policies on climate change, SRHR, mental health, and governance.

Prevention of Gender-Based Violence



Digital and community-based initiatives empowered young people to advocate against sexual and gender-based violence, with trained youth monitoring and reporting cases.

Looking forward, CYECE aims to expand its initiatives, including launching a youth-focused radio station to enhance advocacy and civic engagement. By strengthening partnerships and scaling up successful programs, we remain committed to creating lasting change for Malawi's children and youth.

41 

Social Enterprise Development

A total of 41 individuals were trained in project management under the University of Washington's Global Health E-Learning Program, equipping them with essential skills to drive impactful programs.





1.0 BACKGROUND

Centre for Youth Empowerment and Civic Education (CYECE) is a local non-governmental organization in Malawi, dedicated to addressing the socio-economic development issues impacting young people across the country. CYECE's work centers on promoting child rights, increasing access to quality and comprehensive Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) information and services, and fostering youth empowerment and engagement. CYECE pursues its mission through four interlinked strategies: Community mobilization, empowerment, capacity building and advocacy. Meaningful Youth Participation (MYP) is an overarching approach that informs all processes and program implementations of CYECE. The organization operates nationwide, with established offices in Lilongwe, Salima, Dedza, Machinga, Mangochi, Dowa, Kasungu and Mchinji districts.

GOAL: To ensure wellbeing of children, adolescents and young people in their diversity by 2030.

1.0 VISION

By 2030, Malawi and the world at large is a climate sensitive society where children and young people in their diversities are safe, empowered, health and are meaningfully participating in social economic development..

1.1 MISSION

CYECE is Malawian non-profit making and non-governmental organization that exists to empower children, adolescents, and youth and promote their rights and wellbeing through community mobilization, capacity building, education, evidence generation and research, behavior change communication and advocacy; taking into account the values of transparency, accountability, professionalism and diversity.

1.2 VALUES

Transparency
Accountability
Diversity, Inclusiveness and Equality
Professionalism

1.3 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

CYECE's strategic objectives are as follows;

SO1: To ensure that all children are protected from all forms of violence, abuse and exploitation and are realizing their full potential by having access to inclusive and quality early childhood development, primary and secondary education, health care and meaningfully participating in the society.

SO2: To promote adolescents and young people's access to quality and comprehensive SRHR, HIV/AIDS, mental health information and services and ensure they have adopted healthy lifestyles.

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

SO4: To facilitates mobilization of resources for investment into child development, participation and youth health and well-being projects.



ACHIEVEMENTS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR **2024**

CHILD RIGHTS PROMOTION

Strategic Objective 1: Ensuring Child Protection, Inclusion, and Quality Development

2024 was a year of real change for education, child protection, and child development in Machinga, Kasungu, Dowa, Mchinji, and Ntchisi. From training teachers to improve literacy, to introducing fun games for children after school. Communities learned how to better protect children through training on reporting and resolving issues, while local leaders were empowered to solve problems quickly. Schools also got better with food programs, new kitchens, play areas, and gardens. All these efforts worked together to make learning environments livelier and more supportive for children.

2.1.1 Child Protection

Throughout the year, several capacity building activities were carried out to strengthen child protection efforts at the community level. Training sessions were held to help community members working with children learn how to identify, analyze, and address child protection problems. These sessions focused on context analysis and incident reporting and referral mechanisms, aimed at enhancing the ability of both formal and informal structures to protect children using practical tools and knowledge.

Interface meetings were conducted to assess and address challenges related to child protection and education within the communities of Nlinda, Maluma, Chabwera, M'bweso, Njamba, Chiwalo, chibwana and Mnembo providing a platform for open discussions and solutions. Additionally, monthly meetings and mobile courts were organized to bring the legal system closer to the community, allowing for the resolution of court cases while reviewing the effectiveness of ongoing monitoring and previous training efforts.

KEY RESULTS

122



69 Men
53 Women

8 GVHs of T/A Liwonde

Community members were trained in local-level context analysis, equipping community members who work with and for children with the skills to identify, analyze, and address child protection issues in their communities.

From the trainings they managed to handle and refer 2 sexual harassment cases.

46



21 Men
25 Women

School committees

Child protection

Police

Agriculture

Health

Headteachers

Social welfare

Participated in the establishment of a 1 grievance committee. The committee aims to engage the community in sensitizing, handling, and referring complaints on various issues affecting them

20

10 Boys
10 Girls

MYIP Training

Trained in meaningful youth participation engaged community duty bearers in Dedza to review and formulate by-laws on child marriage. This engagement strengthened referral systems, contributing to a reduction in child marriage cases

110



47 Men
63 Women

Referral Mechanisms

Participants were trained, strengthening their capacity in child protection by utilizing practical tools and knowledge.

32



26 Men
6 Women

Working in social welfare, judiciary, and police

participated in the monthly meetings and mobile courts. Engaging in discussions and legal proceedings to address various community concerns

4

Cases Handled during 2 Sessions

Participated in the establishment of a 1 grievance committee. The committee aims to engage the community in sensitizing, handling, and referring complaints on various issues affecting them



READ MORE

CHILD RIGHTS PROMOTION

2.1.2 Child Development

In 2024, various training and capacity-building activities were carried out to strengthen education, child protection, and community engagement efforts. Teacher training sessions were conducted to equip Standard 1-4 teachers with skills in the Unlocking Literacy model, which focuses on improving literacy through approaches like Child-Centered Learning, Play-Based Learning, and Social Emotional Learning. This was aimed at enhancing children's reading fluency and comprehension.

A good example in Kasungu, Dowa, Mchinji, and Ntchisi significant progress was made in enhancing children's well-being through school meals, play centers, and vegetable gardens. Community structures were strengthened with advisory boards. Schools' kitchens were constructed, and teachers were trained in inclusive learning methods. These efforts improved learning outcomes.

“ School feeding initiatives at Khwere primary school Mchinji



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19

SCHOOLS
Provided with Gardening Materials

To establish or enhance school gardens, ensuring a sustainable food supply by enabling schools to grow crops that supplement the feeding program.

KEY RESULTS

176



69 Men
53 Women
Machinga Teachers

were trained in the Unlocking Literacy model, which focuses on enhancing reading fluency and comprehension for early primary school-age children through collaborations between schools and communities.

Learning materials for 7 school developed | Materials Reaching 4008 Girls 2697 Boys

200



21 Men
25 Women
Households in Dedza

Reached with nutrition information through awareness meetings leading to increased diversified agriculture production enhancing nutrition outcomes at household level.

Provision of nutritious meals to 19,418

Leaners 9675 Girls 9743 Boys

Helping to improve student concentration, attendance, and overall well-being.



250



122 Men
128 Women
Management of the school feeding program

Training, equipping them with essential skills to oversee meal preparation, distribution, and sustainability efforts in the schools of Kasungu, Dowa, Mchinji, and Ntchisi.

From the trainings they managed to brief 480 community members (311 women and 169 men).

8



kitchens

8 new kitchens have been constructed across Kasungu, Dowa, Mchinji, and Ntchisi. Improving food preparation facilities and ensuring that school meals are prepared in a safe, clean, and efficient environment.

3



Radio Talk Shows

show on nutrition with the aim to enhance nutrition reaching out to 80,000 listeners of Dedza.

Participated in nutrition health talks and cooking demonstrations leading to improved nutrition status among children

1500



600 Men
900 Women

Nutrition Health talks

Cooking Demos

CHILD RIGHTS PROMOTION

2.1.3 Child Participation

In 2024, there was powerful shift in child participation, disability inclusion, and youth advocacy. Young people took the lead in championing child rights, engaging in leadership and advocacy training. Boys' Champions mobilized their peers to challenge harmful norms. Radio talk shows and online campaigns amplified awareness on disability rights, sparking widespread community engagement. With strengthened monitoring and accountability structures, youth and community leaders worked hand in hand to create a more inclusive and protective environment for children.

KEY RESULTS



20

PATICIPANTS 9 Women
15 Men

From Civil Society Organizations (CSO), Disability people organizations (DPOs), and government stakeholders were trained to enhance understanding and implementation of the disability act.

training sessions on child rights



READ MORE

62



26 Men
36 Women Interface Meeting

Were engaged in an interface meeting which led to prioritization of people with disabilities in district-level planning and disability mainstreaming in programs.

184



84 Men
100 Women Salima Youth

Trained in meaningful youth participation and child rights, improving youth engagement in child rights advocacy and were supported with materials to conduct awareness

632 Awareness sessions reach

153 boys & 479 girls



Training sessions on meaningful youth participation



20 Girls
20 Boys

Kachulu and Nakaledza CDSS

40

Leaners

Trained to oversee compliance with safeguarding standards in hostels. Additionally, boys' and girls' forums were established to monitor rights violations and ensure the welfare of students.



54

16 Men
38 Women

Trained to enhance collaboration in monitoring child labor and child rights violations.



ACHIEVEMENTS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR 2024

Every child deserves a future where their rights are protected, their voices are heard, and their potential is realized.

2.2 ADOLESCENT AND YOUTH HEALTH AND WELL BEING

Strategic Objective 2: Ensuring Access to Comprehensive SRHR and Well-being Services

CYECE ignited change across Dedza, Machinga, Nkhotakota, Mangochi, and Salima, championing youth access to SRHR, HIV/AIDS, and SGBV services. Through innovative community-driven initiatives, bold digital advocacy, and safe spaces for growth, young people gained the knowledge and support they needed to make informed choices and embrace healthier lifestyles. By fortifying protection systems and amplifying youth voices, CYECE paved the way for a brighter future where every young person has the power to thrive.

2.2.1 SRHR and HIV/AIDS

CYECE played a vital role in promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), with a particular focus on vulnerable children, girls, and young women in Salima, Dedza, Machinga, Nkhotakota, and Mangochi. The organization facilitated transformative dialogue sessions, creating safe spaces for communities to openly discuss issues like child marriage, teenage pregnancies, and sexual violence. To strengthen community support systems, CYECE trained volunteers as paralegals, equipping them with knowledge on safeguarding policies and their roles in protecting young people's rights. Additionally, CYECE implemented targeted educational programs, empowering adolescent girls and young women with crucial knowledge about healthy relationships, consent, and reporting mechanisms.

These initiatives significantly contributed to raising awareness, and improving protection for youth across the five districts. Radio talk shows further spread accurate SRHR information, while policy dialogues led to commitments to make health services more youth-friendly. Community leaders also pledged to improve menstrual health facilities.

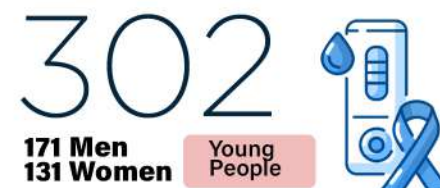
KEY RESULTS



[READ MORE](#)



All from Lilongwe, Salima Mchinji, Machinga and Mangochi participated in the SRHR research symposiums aimed at sharing evidence for research to inform advocacy.



From T/A Makanjira Salima participated in community 2 SRH service fares with HIV testing and counselling, Family planning and Contraception, reproductive health consultations, STI diagnosis and treatment



Village Development Committee

Engaged in community dialogue sessions, enhancing their understanding of how access to family planning can reduce teenage pregnancies.

Following the community dialogues session the duty bears engaged their communities through community meetings reaching a total of



in Salima which facilitated change in society attitudes towards access to contraceptives among the youth leading to high intake of family planning

2.2 ADOLESCENT AND YOUTH HEALTH AND WELL BEING

35

1 Man
34 Women

Menstrual hygiene management



Salima, were trained in menstrual hygiene management and acquired skills in making reusable sanitary pads. The knowledge gained was cascade to 50 girls more from the school.

626

344 Men
299 Women

Boys Champions

Village Development Committee



Were reached through Boys' Champions, community engagements and parent-child communication sessions across Salima.

These initiatives enhanced SRHR advocacy, youth rights awareness, and open family discussions on reproductive health.



Girls club members showing off their hand made sanitary pads, after being trained in sewing of sanitary pads

[READ MORE](#)

135

82 Men
53 Women

Young People



Community volunteers in Mangochi, Salima, and Nkhotakota as paralegals. Equipping them with skills and knowledge to promote the sexual and reproductive health rights of vulnerable children, girls, and young women.

360

140 Women
120 Men

The trained paralegals organized sessions reaching

2.2.2 Prevention Violence against Young Women and Girls

Throughout the year, CYECE actively worked to combat harmful practices and gender-based violence (SGBV). As part of these efforts, the organization participated in a regional workshop aimed at integrating the elimination of harmful practices into the African Union Gender Observatory (AUGO).

In addition, CYECE facilitated capacity-building sessions for young people, providing them with essential tools to raise awareness about violence against women, unintended pregnancies, and harmful social norms. The organization also strengthened digital social accountability mechanisms, empowering youth to monitor and advocate against gender-based violence.

20

10 Men
10 Women

Community Members



Trained as SASA! facilitators to support efforts in addressing Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV). Trained SASA facilitators organized sessions with their communities and reached out to 2560 community members (1680 women & 880 men) in 10 GVHs of Kasumbu

135

82 Men
53 Women

Young People



Community volunteers in Mangochi, Salima, and Nkhotakota as paralegals. Equipping them with skills and knowledge to promote the sexual and reproductive health rights of vulnerable children, girls, and young women.

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2.2 ADOLESCENT AND YOUTH HEALTH AND WELL BEING

2.2.3 Prevention Violence against Young Women and Girls

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awareness raising campaign on bullying, sexual abuse and harassment



[READ MORE](#)

KEY RESULTS

20

81 Men
93 Women



SASA Facilitators

Trained as SASA! facilitators to support efforts in addressing Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV). Trained SASA facilitators organized sessions with their communities and reached out to

2560 880 Men
1680 Women

Community members in 10 GVHs of Kasumbu

19

9 Men
10 Women



Digital Social Accountability Monitoring

Trained in Digital Social Accountability Monitoring, equipping them with skills to track and advocate for action on SGBV, unintended pregnancies, and harmful practices in Machinga

They reached out **516** young people and managed to follow up 6 Child marriage and 3 SGBV cases.

3 Radio Talk Shows

Conducted to discuss the issues of SGBV in Salima district. The talk shows managed to reach out to

60,000 listeners with how they can manage SGBV



SGBV issues

180



Female Champions

Trained on integrated homestead farming to equip them with the skills and knowledge to ensure

90

Adolescent Girls and Young Women

Trained on healthy relationships, consent, common forms of violations and mechanisms for reporting violations.

601

Learners
268 Boys
315 Girls

participated in the anti-bullying campaign, sexual abuse and harassment



**ACHIEVEMENTS
THROUGHOUT
THE YEAR 2024**

**Empowering people with knowledge and
access to sexual and reproductive health services
is key to a healthier, informed society.**

2.3 YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AND EMPOWERMENT

Strategic Objective 3: Youth Empowerment for Social and Economic Development

In 2024, youth across Lilongwe, Machinga, Salima, Mangochi, and Dedza took the lead in governance, advocacy, and research, transforming their communities through capacity-building, policy engagement, and evidence-based solutions. The Youth Researchers Academy (YRA) played a key role in equipping young people with the skills to tackle critical issues such as climate change, mental health, SRHR and digital inclusion. Strengthened by strategic partnerships and research-driven insights, youth are now at the forefront of policy influence, decision-making, and community-driven development.

2.3.1 Meaningful Youth Participation and Inclusion

Throughout the year 2024 districts like Lilongwe, Mangochi, Machinga, Salima, and Dedza, youth were equipped with the skills to advocate for climate action, mental health, and governance, strengthening their involvement in local decision-making. At the same time, the Youth Researchers Academy (YRA) successfully trained young researchers, enabling them to address key issues such as SRHR, climate change, mental health, and ICT. These efforts fostered a new generation of youth leaders, driving evidence-based advocacy and policy formulation, while ensuring inclusivity for marginalized groups, including youth with disabilities.

Through strategic collaborations and practical tools, youth are now more equipped than ever to shape their communities and contribute to sustainable change

KEY RESULTS

Training on waste management at CYECE 



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**20 Women
6 Men**

Youth Researchers

Young researchers were recruited and trained in research methodologies, proposal development, and data collection techniques.



7 Research Studies

APPROVED BY NREC

Were conducted across Lilongwe, Machinga, Mangochi, Salima, and Dedza with much focus on SRHR, climate change, mental health, and ICT,

CYECE officers 20

YRA Participants 15



Trained in effective waste management practices to enhance organizational sustainability and environmental responsibility.

50



**23 Men
27 Women**

Village Development Committee

Trained on the importance of youth involvement in local governance, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to actively participate in decision-making processes.

30

**Youth
15 Men
15 Women**

Engaged in discussions with ADCs and VDCs, to emphasize the critical role of youth in electoral processes.

40


**10 Men
30 Women**

Attended a virtual indaba to discuss the importance of youth involvement in electoral processes.

2.4 SOCIAL ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

CYECE hosted a site for an online course on Project Management in Global Health under the University of Washington Global Health E-Learning Program. The course which run from June to September 2024 had an enrolment of 41 (22 women & 19 men) who were trained on different aspects of project management including essentials of project management, project development, project planning, people management as well as monitoring and evaluation. The awarding ceremony for the certified project managers was conducted in December 2024 at Kambiri Beach Resort in Salima.



Awarding ceremony for the project managers 

3.0 PARTNERSHIPS

Throughout the year, CYECE actively participated in various meetings with stakeholders to foster collaboration and networking. In 2024, the organization further strengthened its involvement by engaging in district executive committee and technical working group meetings, where it offered support and contributed to discussions. Additionally, CYECE participated in activities organized by the networks to which it is affiliated. The table below highlights the partnerships and networks CYECE is a part of:

Name of Network	Status of Affiliation	Level	Role of CYECE
NGO GCN	Maintained	National	Member
CSEC	Maintained	National	Member
CONGOMA	Maintained	National	Member
MEJN	Maintained	National	Member
Malawi SRHR Alliance	Maintained	National	Secretariat
Malawi All in All Learning	Maintained	National	Secretariat
NGO CCR	Maintained	National	Member
Girls not Bribes	Maintained	National	Member
WESNET	Maintained	National	Member
MASP	Maintained	National	Member
CRNSA	Maintained	Regional	Member
More than Brides	Maintained	Regional	Member
African CSO League on SRHR	Maintained	Regional	Member

4.0 LOOKING AHEAD

CYECE plans to expand its social enterprise by establishing a radio station, providing a platform for youth engagement, education, and advocacy. Additionally, the organization will continue to strengthen its role as a center for youth empowerment and civic education, ensuring increased impact and opportunities for young people.

CYECE also plans to establish a Leadership and Management Academy which will offer various trainings to different individuals and organizations at a cost. The trainings that will be offered include: Project Management, Monitoring and Evaluation, Leadership, Advocacy, Research, Data Analysis and Basic ICT training.

THE BOARD CHAIR

Mrs Anne
Kachigamba



Looking Forward

As we turn the page to another promising year for CYECE, I am filled with a deep sense of optimism and determination. The past year has demonstrated the strength of our vision and the resilience of our mission, and as we look ahead, we are committed to furthering our impact in empowering children and youth across Malawi.

Our strategic direction remains clear: to amplify our advocacy efforts, strengthen community-driven solutions, and enhance program sustainability. We recognize that the challenges facing young people today—ranging from access to quality education and health services to the eradication of harmful practices—require innovative, collaborative, and adaptive approaches. CYECE is well-positioned to lead these efforts through evidence-based programs and strategic partnerships.

As a Board, we are dedicated to ensuring strong governance, accountability, and resource mobilization to support the organization's continued growth. We will prioritize strengthening institutional capacity, fostering stakeholder engagements, and reinforcing CYECE's role as a key player in the development landscape of Malawi.

I extend my sincere appreciation to our Executive Director, staff, partners, and all those who continue to contribute to the success of CYECE. Your unwavering commitment and passion are the driving forces behind our progress. Together, let us embrace the opportunities ahead and work towards a future where every child and young person can achieve their full potential.

With best regards,



2024
ANNUAL
REPORT

When youth are equipped with skills, opportunities,
and a voice, they drive meaningful change in
their communities and beyond.