



2025
**ANNUAL
REPORT**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During the 2025 reporting period, Centre for Youth Empowerment and Civic Education (CYECE) made significant progress in advancing child protection, youth empowerment and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) initiatives for adolescents and young people across its program areas in Malawi. Through integrated approaches combining community mobilization, capacity building, advocacy, research and meaningful youth participation, CYECE strengthened local systems, promoted rights-based development and contributed to safer, more inclusive and more supportive environments for children and young

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS:

SO1: Child Protection, Development and Participation:

26,252

CYECE reached a total of 26,252 children (13088 girls and 13164 boys), including those with disabilities, with child protection interventions aimed at preventing violence, abuse and exploitation.

131

 child protection workers were actively engaged in child protection activities.

35,950

children were reached with child development activities

SO3: Youth Development and Empowerment:

A total of

41

24

young people participated in social and economic development initiatives, with 3 youth contributing meaningfully to decision-making at district level.

24 Participants received comprehensive mentorship to develop five research proposals, covering literature review, methodology and tool development, aligned with NCRSH standards and conduct field data collection

5

 young people consist of 4 FEMALES AND 1 MALE were recruited to serve as CSE defenders

SO4: Resource Mobilization and Partnerships:

CYECE submitted 12 funding proposals and

4

 were successful. In addition, 5 new partnerships were secured to support program sustainability.

SO2: SRHR and HIV/AIDS:

CYECE reached a total of

2956

 ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH

1,430 MALES
1,529 FEMALES

were reached through service fairs, community dialogues, awareness campaigns, radio programmes and school-based initiatives.

A TOTAL OF

337

Girls and young women were empowered with knowledge and practical skills to prevent violence, including supporting them through economic empowerment initiatives such as briquette making and irrigation farming.

260

 female champions from 13 FEMALE champions groups were empowered with economic initiatives to prevent any form of violence

50

50

male champions participated in prevention of violence of girls and young women

Community safeguarding structures were strengthened through the orientation of chiefs, CSO representatives, district stakeholders and community structures on Community Safeguarding Framework and PSEAH, reinforcing leadership and coordinated response to SGBV and harmful practices

Communication and Visibility

CYECE maintained strong online visibility with

10,601 Facebook followers, 1,413 Instagram Followers
1,602 X Followers 6,776 LinkedIn Followers

Despite challenges such as climate disruptions, fuel shortages, socio-cultural barriers and delays in research ethical approvals, CYECE successfully delivered interventions that improved child protection, development and participation outcomes, empowered youth and strengthened local systems for sustainable Community impact.

Moving forward CYECE will continue to strengthen partnerships, expand youth-led initiatives, scale up Safeguarding Forums, address socio-cultural barriers and enhance resource mobilization to sustain and expand its impact on children's and youth wellbeing across Malawi.

WWW.CYECMW.ORG

REALISING & SAFEGUARDING THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE



1.0 INTRODUCTION

Center 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

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.

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.

Values

CYECE conduct its business guided by the following values;

- Transparency
- Accountability
- Diversity, Inclusiveness and Equality
- Professionalism



CHILD PROTECTION, DEVELOPMENT & PARTICIPATION

Community structures, schools and young people increasingly demonstrated ownership and capacity to safeguard children's rights, promote inclusive education and create safer and more supportive learning environments, particularly for girls and children with disabilities.

2.0 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES OVERVIEW

2.1 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1: CHILD PROTECTION, DEVELOPMENT AND PARTICIPATION

During the 2025 reporting year, the SO1 made significant progress in advancing child protection, child development and child participation through coordinated community, school and youth-led interventions. Community structures, schools and young people increasingly demonstrated ownership and capacity to safeguard children's rights, promote inclusive education and create safer and more supportive learning environments, particularly for girls and children with disabilities.



Under child protection communities recorded notable achievements in child protection, with Community structures including Protection Committees (CPCs), youth clubs, women groups, community policing forums, Community Victims Support Unit (CVSU) actively preventing and responding to cases of early marriage, teenage pregnancy and school dropout. Across project areas, these structures successfully supported the return of girls and boys to school following early marriages and pregnancies and reinforcing the importance of education as a protective measure. For instance, 7 girls of the ages between 12 and 17 were withdrawn from child marriages in 2025 from Funsani, Mwera and Nyanda GVHs in Salima district through the collaborative actions of these structures. In self-boarding schools, Child-Guided School Safety Committees (CGSSCs) played a critical role in improving student wellbeing and safety, contributing to improved discipline, better academic performance and enhanced boarding facility standards for girls and young women.

CPCs and Safeguarding Forums in Kachulu, Mgwere and Domira Bay conducted community campaigns and door-to-door sensitization targeting parents, guardians and local leaders on ending child marriages, promoting girls' education and preventing sexual harassment. In Domira Bay and Nakaedza, CPCs also carried out school monitoring visits to follow up on absentee learners, particularly those engaged in market-related work. These efforts contributed to improved attendance and re-engagement of learners at risk of dropping out.

During the year, Safeguarding Forums strengthened community-level response to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) through awareness campaigns and coordinated referrals, these actions contributed to the dissolution of teenage marriages and the referral of abuse cases for legal and psychosocial support. In Mgwere alone, community dialogues facilitated through local safeguarding forums led to the dissolution of fourteen child marriages, reflecting growing community commitment to protecting children. In Nakaedza, a 16-year-old girl was rescued from sexual exploitation involving two adult men. In GVH Mwera, collaboration between the CPC, chiefs, the Community Police Forum and the Safeguarding Forum resulted in the dissolution of an underage marriage involving a 13-year-old boy and a 16-year-old girl.

These cases demonstrate improved functionality of community protection systems and stronger accountability mechanisms.



Figure 1: Reflection and planning meetings involving community structures



Capacity strengthening remained central to sustaining these efforts. Sixteen case workers from eight Group Village Headmen (GVHs) were coached on the effective use of case management booklets, improving documentation and follow-up of child protection cases. Monthly community review meetings involving 26 participants provided platforms to reflect on emerging child wellbeing issues, identify gaps and agree on collective solutions. Reflection and planning meetings involving CPCs, CGSSCs and Community Disability Forums (CDFs) further supported harmonized action planning, peer learning and problem-solving across structures.

Child Development

Capacity strengthening remained central to sustaining these efforts. Sixteen case workers from eight Group Village Headmen (GVHs) were coached on the effective use of case management booklets, improving documentation and follow-up of child protection cases. Monthly community review meetings involving 26 participants provided platforms to reflect on emerging child wellbeing issues, identify gaps and agree on collective solutions. Reflection and planning meetings involving CPCs, CGSSCs and Community Disability Forums (CDFs) further supported harmonized action planning, peer learning and problem-solving across structures.



Figure 3: Chakhala primary school students receiving porridge

Schools were also supported with materials for vegetable gardens, while porridge provision continued across all schools in both the current and expansion phases. In total, all 27 supported schools planted income generating crops, strengthening school feeding sustainability and nutrition outcomes. Teachers, school committees and traditional leaders received training in hygiene promotion, project management and nutrition, enhancing community ownership of school-based initiatives. Additionally, income-generating activities such as milling and baking were established, with profits deposited into school accounts to support ongoing operations. Collectively, these interventions contributed to increased enrolment, improved attendance, better academic performance and reduced post-school idleness among learners.



Figure 2 : construction of eight new school kitchens

Furthermore, Early Childhood Development (ECD) and foundational learning were also prioritized. A total of 132 Centre Management Committee members were trained in ECD management, strengthening governance and service delivery at community childcare centres. In addition, 49 teachers were trained to use the school-based Test About Reading (STAR) assessment tool, enabling improved tracking of literacy progress and early identification of learning gaps. These efforts strengthened local capacity to monitor and support child development outcomes more effectively.



Figure 4: Training of CMC members on ECD management



Child Participation

Progress was recorded in strengthening child participation and promoting disability inclusion across project schools and communities. Children actively participated in decision-making processes at the school level through school committees, where they presented issues related to school governance, learning environments (both indoor and outdoor) and ongoing crop and livelihood initiatives. In addition, children engaged through 16 Human Rights Clubs, which continue to serve as key platforms for civic engagement and peer learning.

Refresher trainings were conducted in all 13 Human Rights Club schools as a sustainable strategy to strengthen peer educators' knowledge of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), build their capacity to prevent Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) and enhance meaningful participation in club activities. The refresher sessions covered critical topics including SGBV issues and their root causes, relevant Malawian policies addressing SGBV such as the Re-admission Policy aimed at retaining girls in school after child marriage or teenage pregnancy and the roles and responsibilities of Human Rights Clubs and peer educators.



Figure 5: Refresher trainings with Human rights club

Weekly Human Rights Club sessions attracted new members, reflecting the effectiveness of consistent engagement by school patrons and matrons by utilized platforms such as school assemblies and sports days to raise awareness on SGBV and child rights. As a result, a total of 21 new peer educators (12 girls and 9 boys) joined the human rights club strengthening children participation and outreach within schools



Figure 6: Enhancing children participation through Human rights club weekly sessions

Community actions significantly advanced disability inclusion. Sensitization campaigns in Nakaledza, Kasache, Joni and Chigolo increased awareness and reduced stigma, resulting in the enrolment of children with disabilities in primary schools. Notably, Chigolo Primary School enrolled five children with disabilities (three girls and two boys) following targeted community engagement. Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) developed sustainability strategies during a District Disability Network meeting, focusing on formal registration, resource mobilization and long-term advocacy beyond the project lifespan.

Community Disability Forums demonstrated innovation and ownership in addressing barriers to education for children with disabilities. In Kasache, CDFs secured land for farming initiatives, while in Mnema they mobilized MK 22,000 to establish an academic award scheme aimed at motivating high-performing learners with disabilities and reducing financial barriers. In Nakaledza, targeted awareness campaigns addressed stigma and encouraged enrolment, while in Joni, teacher orientations strengthened classroom support for learners with special needs. These initiatives collectively contributed to more inclusive and supportive learning environments for children.

Table 1: Key achievements under SO1 indicators

INDICATOR			
1.1 Number of children including those with disabilities protected from any form of violence abuse and exploitation esegregated by gender	Female 13070	Males 13127	Total 26197
1.2 Number of child protection workers participating in child protection activities	Female 66	Males 65	Total 131
1.5 Number of children including those with disabilities reached with feeding program	Female 13014	Males 13105	Total 26119
1.6 Number of children including those with disabilities participating in various decision-making processes at community, district and national level desegregated by gender	Female 27	Males 27	Total 54
Total	26177	26324	52501

1.3 Types of activities conducted on child protection

To achieve the above results, the following activities were conducted:

Community Sensitization and Awareness: CPCs and safeguarding forums in Kachulu, Mgwere and Domira Bay conducted campaigns and door-to-door visits targeting parents and local leaders on ending child marriages, promoting girls' education and preventing sexual harassment.

School monitoring: CPCs in Domira Bay and Nakaledza monitored school attendance, following up on absenteeism, especially for children involved in market work likewise Female and Male champions from TA Liwonde monitor school attendance, withdraw girls from child marriages, returning girls and boys back to school and counselling girl who are at risk of school dropout.

Parent Child Communication (PCC) Sessions: Parents facilitated PCC sessions on SRHR, body autonomy and child rights, including reporting abuse through school boxes and CPC channels.

SGBV Awareness and referral support: Safeguarding forum in Domira Bay led SGBV campaigns using the Safeguarding Framework Handbook.

Self-Boarding facilities monitoring: CGSSC in Kachulu worked with landlords to improve safety, hygiene and security in girls' boarding facilities

Community reflection and planning: Quarterly joint review meetings with child protection structures, Safeguarding Forum, CDF and CGSSC were held to assess progress, share learning and document emerging issues.

Recreational activities: Children participated in indoor games (chess, Bawo, scab) and outdoor games (football, netball, scissor, swing, slides, monkey bars)

School feeding and child development support: Schools received support for porridge provision, vegetable gardens, income-generating crops and school kitchens, while teachers, school committees and traditional leaders were trained in hygiene, nutrition and project management

Childhood development and literacy: Centre Management Committees were trained on ECD governance and teachers were trained on the STAR assessment tool to monitor foundational literacy and identify learning gaps early.

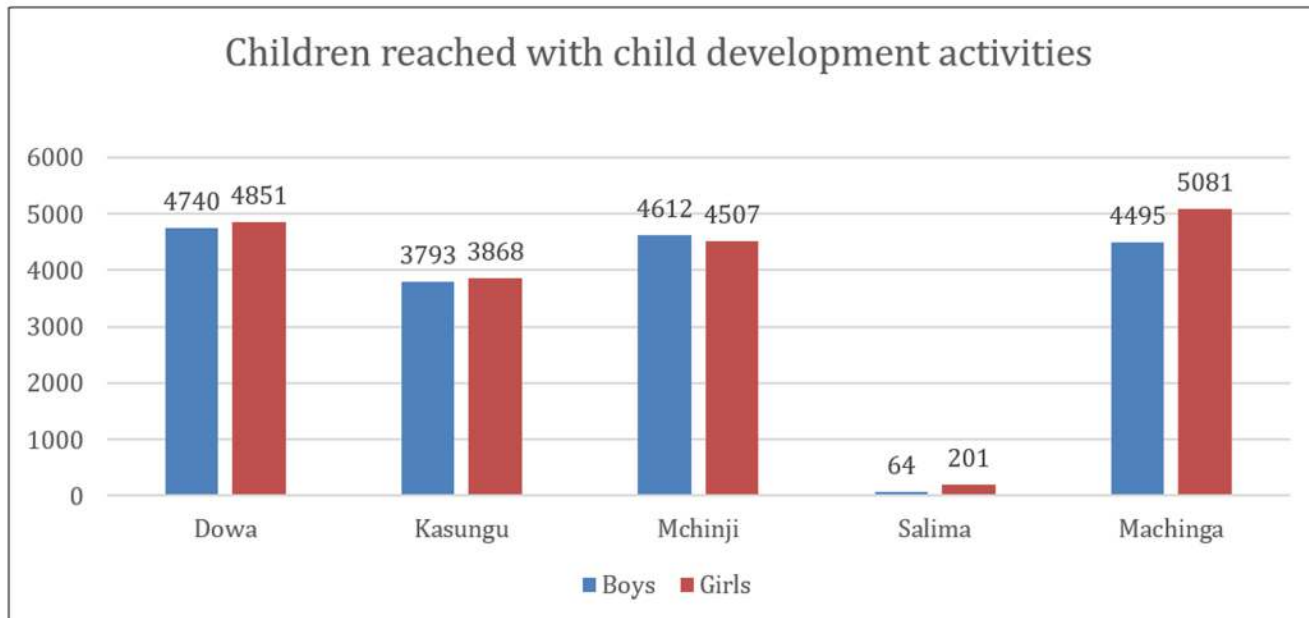
Child Participation and peer leadership: Children engaged in school governance through committees and Human rights clubs, while peer educators received training on SRHR, SGBV prevention, child rights and Malawian policies, conducting weekly peer-led sessions and awareness activities.

Refresher trainings for peer educators: Peer educators in Human rights clubs received refresher trainings to strengthen knowledge on SRHR, SGBV prevention, child rights and enhancing their capacity to lead peer education sessions and participate meaningfully in club activities.

1.4 Number of children including those with disabilities reached with child development activities desegregated by gender, intervention and location (enrollment and retention in primary and ECD centers, sports and recreation)

The graph below summaries the number of children reach with child development activities disaggregated by location and gender.

Figure 2: Number of children reached with child development activities



2.2 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2: SRHR AND HIV/AIDS

During the reporting year, CYECE implemented Strategic Objective 2 (SO2) to improve adolescents’ and young people’s access to comprehensive Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), HIV/AIDS and mental health information and services. Interventions were implemented across Salima, Dedza, Machinga, Nkhotakota and Mangochi districts, targeting in-school and out-of-school youth, parents, community leaders and service providers. Through community engagement, youth-led advocacy, strengthened safeguarding systems and economic empowerment initiatives, CYECE contributed to improved health knowledge, safer environments and increased community support for young people, particularly girls and young women.

Under SO2, Parent Child Communication (PCC) sessions were facilitated involving mother groups, girls, boys, Menand caregivers. These sessions addressed harmful myths and misconceptions related to puberty, body changes, body autonomy and child rights, while promoting open dialogue within households. Participants were also oriented on mechanisms for reporting sexual harassment, abuse and other violations through school reporting boxes and Child Protection Committees (CPCs), strengthening community-level prevention and response systems.

CYECE actively worked to combat harmful practices and Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) through integrated community mobilization, capacity building and advocacy implemented across the target districts. Capacity-building sessions equipped young people with knowledge and tools to raise awareness on violence against women, unintended pregnancies, child marriage and harmful social norms. Youth networks were empowered to lead community dialogues, advocate for girls’ education, support the reintegration of adolescent mothers into school and collaborate with local structures to strengthen child protection mechanisms and improve access to SRHR services.

Access to SRHR, HIV/AIDS and SGBV services was further enhanced through community dialogues, outreach activities and safe spaces. Twenty community SRHR champions facilitated five dialogue sessions with youth clubs, traditional leaders, religious leaders, ADC and VDC members and learners from primary and secondary schools, reaching 105 participants (30 males and 75 females). Community champions also conducted awareness campaigns on ending child marriage and teenage pregnancy, reaching over 170 community members, including men, women, youth and persons with disabilities.

**SRHR AND
HIV/AIDS**

REACH

In-school &
out-of-school
youth

Parents &
caregivers

Traditional &
religious leaders

ADC & VDC
members

Service
providers

**IMPROVING
ACCESS
TO SRHR,
HIV/AIDS
& MENTAL
HEALTH
SERVICES**

5 DISTRICTS

5 DIALOGUES

105 170 20

**PARTICIPANTS COMMUNITIES CHAMPIONS
REACHED**

275 TOTAL
REACH

To expand outreach, two SRHR champions conducted radio talk shows that disseminated SRHR information to a wider audience. In addition, CYECE organised a service fair at Mgwere Primary School to address access barriers faced by young people living far from health facilities. The service fair reached 337 adolescents and young people (167 males and 170 females), improving access to SRH information and services in a hard-to-reach community.

Figure 7: expanding SRHR information through radio talk shows



Youth-led actions played a critical role in preventing violence against young women and girls and challenging harmful social norms. Through youth key events, community campaigns and school-based initiatives, over 394 community members were reached, resulting in increased awareness, improved community support and stronger partnerships between youth and duty bearers. For example, following a child marriage awareness campaign conducted by the Mizinga Youth Network in Mapundu Village, community members pledged to discourage early marriages and support girls' education. Similarly, an anti-bullying campaign at Kayuni Primary School helped reduce stigma against adolescent mothers and promoted a more inclusive school environment

Youth clubs and networks further used creative platforms such as community drama, storytelling, sports, traditional art and radio programmes to promote SRHR awareness, girls' education, peaceful civic engagement and inclusive development. Youth clubs including Fusaudziwe, Kasache and Mpiringidzo contributed to reducing unwanted pregnancies and child marriages by improving access to SRHR information and contraceptive services. Advocacy efforts also contributed to improved access to SRHR services, including the extension of outreach services from Mnema Health Centre to remote and underserved villages.



Figure 9: Orientation of community and district structures on safeguarding framework on PSEAH for vulnerable children, girls and women in GVH Mwera, T/A Makanjira and Machinga

Strengthening safeguarding and protection systems remained a priority throughout the year. CYECE conducted orientations on the Community Safeguarding Framework and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (PSEAH) for community structures, CSOs and government stakeholders.

Thirty-two community members (16 males and 16 females), 18 CSO and government representatives and 20 traditional chiefs were oriented, strengthening local leadership and capacity to safeguard vulnerable children, girls and young women. CYECE also organised a national symposium on SGBV and SRHR targeting Finnish partners, government stakeholders and district and community members.



Figure 10: Kambewe female champions strengthened household resilience through maize harvesting, goat and poultry farming and backyard gardening.

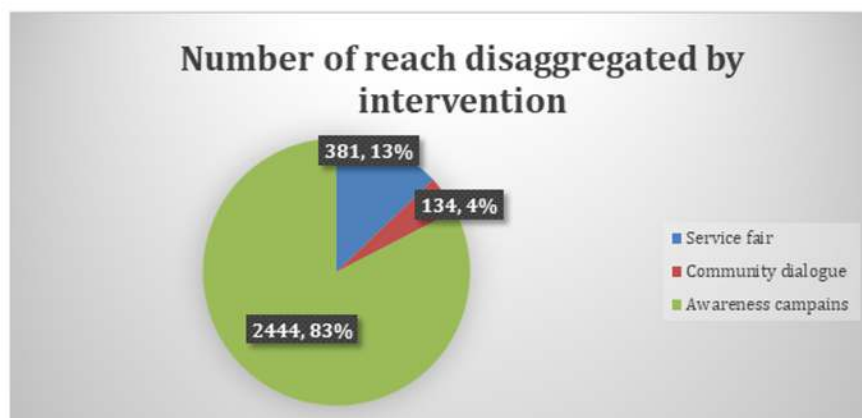
Economic empowerment was integrated as a cross-cutting strategy to reduce vulnerability to SGBV and strengthen household resilience among women and girls. In Nankhunda, women harvested 11 bags of maize and collectively owned 12 goats and five chickens. Female champions in Madzianjuchi adopted irrigation farming, while others received training in briquette making and Integrated Household Farming practices to support income generation.

Male and female champions from Kanjedza, Masidiand Nankhunda conducted awareness-raising initiatives regarding the increasing prevalence of child marriages and teenage pregnancies in GVH Njenjema, Maluma and Masaka, reaching 371 people (113 males, 238 females, 18 youth and 2 persons with disabilities). Complementary roles of male champions and mother groups in promoting SGBV-free schools and communities were strengthened through sessions attended by 29 participants (16 males and 13 females). Overall, the implementation of Strategic Objective 2 strengthened access to SRHR and HIV/AIDS information and services, empowered youth to prevent violence against girls and young women, enhanced safeguarding systems and promoted inclusive community norms

2.1 Number of adolescents and youth reached with SRHR/HIV/AIDS information and services desegregated by gender, intervention and location.

During the reporting year, CYECE reached 2959 adolescents and youth, including 1430 males and 1529 females, with SRHR/HIV/AIDS information through service fairs, community dialogues and awareness campaigns. In addition, a National SRHR and SGBV was conducted reaching a total of 85 including National, district and community members with SRHR and SGBV information. The graph summarizes the reach, disaggregated by intervention

Figure 11: SRHR reach disaggregated by intervention



2.2 Number of girls and young women empowered to prevent any form of violence.



337

women and girls empowered with knowledge on gender-based violence (GBV), including strategies for prevention and reporting to relevant authorities.



260

female champions from 13 VSL groups were empowered with economic initiatives to prevent any form of violence

2.3 Number of community structures participating in the prevention of violence of girls and young women.

22

Community structures

(CVSU, Chiefs forum, Male champions, female champions, Human rights clubs, Mother Groups, T/A, GVH's, Child protection Committee members, Child protection worker, community policing forum, PEA, Extension workers, CPCs, CGSSCs, SF, CDF, youth clubs school management committees, ADCs VDC AND DEC).

were engaged, to strengthen their capacity in prevention of violence of girls and young women.

50

MALE CHAMPIONS participated in prevention of violence of girls and young women

20

CHIEFS (18 males, 12 female) were oriented on safeguarding framework.

32

CSOs (16 males and 16 females) were oriented on safeguarding

18

DISTRICT STAKEHOLDERS were oriented on safeguarding framework



FROM PROMOTING GIRLS' EDUCATION AND SRHR ACCESS TO BUILDING SGBV-FREE SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES, WOMEN ARE NOT JUST BENEFICIARIES — THEY ARE ADVOCATES, PROTECTORS AND DRIVERS OF SAFER, MORE INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES.

**YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
AND EMPOWERMENT**

**100%
YOUTH-LED
APPROACH**

41 SOCIAL AND
ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT

5 COMPREHENSIVE
SEXUALITY EDUCATION
(CSE) DEFENDERS

24 YOUTH
RESEARCHERS

5 RESEARCH PROPOSALS
DEVELOPED AND SUBMITTED
FOR ETHICAL REVIEW

**EMPOWERING YOUTH
WITH SKILLS,
VOICE AND EVIDENCE
TO INFLUENCE POLICY
AND TRANSFORM
COMMUNITIES.**

Strengthening research,
advocacy, governance
and community-driven
solutions across Malawi

2.3 Strategic Objective 3: Youth Development and Empowerment

2.2 Number of girls and young women empowered to prevent any form of violence.

During the reporting period, young people across Lilongwe, Machinga, Salima, Dedza, Kasungu, Mchinji and Dowa districts played a leading role in governance, advocacy and research, contributing to positive community change through capacity building, policy engagement and evidence-based solutions. Central to this achievement was the Youth Researchers Academy (YRA), which served as a key platform for strengthening youth leadership and research capacity.



Figure 12: Recruitment of 24 youth researchers

Through a competitive recruitment process, 24 young researchers were selected and participated in an intensive residential training programme. The training enhanced participants' knowledge and skills on priority thematic areas, including Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), mental health, climate change and digital technology. This was followed by structured mentorship sessions that supported participants to conceptualize and develop research proposals grounded in community realities and national priorities.



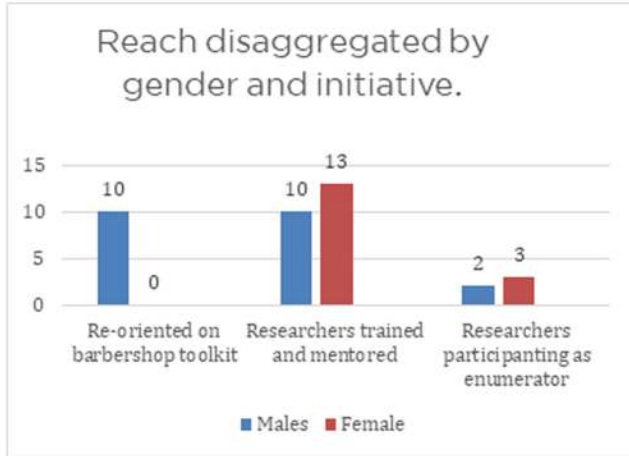
YRA participants received continuous mentorship to strengthen their research competencies, resulting in the development of five research proposals submitted for ethical review. Support focused on literature review, variable operationalization, development of conceptual framework and alignment of research methodologies with NCRSH standards. Hybrid feedback sessions further strengthened proposal quality. Participants were also supported to refine data collection tools through translation, pre-testing and validation to ensure clarity and reliability. In addition, training was provided on digital data management, including the use of Kobo Collect for designing and administering survey tools



Figure 14: Field data collection for one of the studies

Data collection commenced in the second week of November and was conducted across Lilongwe, Salima, Machinga and Kasungu districts. A mixed-methods approach was employed, including focus group discussions, key informant interviews, field surveys, online surveys and telephone interviews. Due to the sensitivity of certain study topics, two studies sex-for-grades in public universities in Malawi and Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (SEAH) among interns in public and private sectors were conducted exclusively through online and telephone-based methods, while the remaining studies utilized field-based data collection approaches

Beyond research, efforts to promote positive social norms were strengthened through the re-orientation of male champions on the barbershop toolkit. Participants were provided with facilitation manuals and refreshed on their roles in promoting positive masculinity and preventing Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) within their communities. In addition, CYECE recruited five (5) young people aged 18 - 25 from Salima and Lilongwe to serve as CSE Defenders, leading youth-led advocacy on comprehensive sexuality education and sexual and reproductive health issues



Overall, 41 young people actively participated in social and economic development initiatives during the reporting period. These initiatives strengthened youth leadership, advocacy and community engagement, positioning young people at the forefront of policy influence, decision-making and community-driven development across Malawi

Figure 15: Reach disaggregated by gender and initiative

3.2 Number of young people included and participating in decision making processes at community, district and national level.

- A total of **3 young people** consist of **2 males and 1 female** were involved in YRA activities are meaningfully contributing to decision making at district level

- 2 youth researchers participated in a Hivos virtual town hall where they presented research findings from the YRA Malawi 2024 cohort as part of

evidence dissemination and youth engagement in regional dialogue

- **23 youth researchers** interacted with community leaders, school administrators, district officials and institutions during data collection, contributing their perspectives to community-level decision-making

- **5 young people** consist of 4 females and 1 male were recruited to serve as CSE defenders





RESOURCE MOBILIZATION & PARTNERSHIP

CONTINUED ITS EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN COLLABORATION WITH PARTNERS, DONORS AND STAKEHOLDERS TO SECURE FUNDING AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT FOR PROGRAMMES THAT PROMOTE CHILDREN'S LEARNING, PROTECTION AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT.

2.4 Strategic Objective 4: Resource Mobilization and Partnerships

Under this objective, CYECE continued its efforts to strengthen collaboration with partners, donors and stakeholders to secure funding and technical support for programmes that promote children's learning, protection and youth development. During the year, CYECE engaged various partners and stakeholders to mobilize both financial and technical support. A total of 13 funding proposals were submitted and 4 were Successful. In addition, 5 new partnerships were successfully established, demonstrating the organization's strong commitment to resource mobilization and sustainable support for child and youth development projects. The table below presents a summary of the resource mobilization initiatives and new partnerships secured by CYECE.

TITLE OF OPPORTUNITY	FUNDER	BUDGET	SUBMISSION DEADLINE	STATUS
New programme period (2026- 2029)- Prevention of SGBV in rural Malawi Project	Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs through Väestöliitto	290,000 Euros	24/01/2025	Successful
New programme period (2026-2029)- Girls Empowerment for Meaningful Participation and Education (GEMPE) Project	Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs through Taksvarkki	232,000 Euros	31/01/2025	Successful
Kumaliza Maphunziro a Sekondale- Secondary School Success Activity	USAID	\$ 12,000,000	14/02/2025	Not successful
Call for Proposals for Grant Submission by NGOs/CSOs to Promote Equality and Women's Economic Empowerment	UNDP	\$ 50,000	24/02/2025	Not successful
Mentorship program for secondary school girls in Malawi	UNICEF	\$ 300,000	28/02/2025	Waiting for feedback
Call for Partners: Sexuality Education for Transformation Project Phase II (SET 2.0)	SAYWHAT	49,913.36 Pounds	04/03/2025	Successful
Capacity Building Programme for Youth in Sub Saharan Africa Grant	European Commission	450,000 Euros	06/03/2025	Waiting for feedback
Connect, Defend Act Project: Sustainable Action Fund	Hivos	23,000 Euros	28/02/2025	Waiting for feedback
Addressing food safety challenges in the African informal sector through innovative strategies & use cases	Food Safety for Africa	EUR 60,000	30 th September, 2025	Successful for Phase 1
Exchange program	NOREC	NOK 1,500,000	1 st September 2025	Successful for phase 1
Exchange program- CYECE and YETT	NOREC	-	01 February 2026	Drafting in progress
Our Rights, Our Lives, Our Future (O3)- College Hub Model	UNESCO	Not certain	30 th October 2025	Waiting for feedback
African Adolescents Bolstered through Local Evidence (AABLE)	IDRC	CAD 692 000	07 th August 2025	Waiting for feedback
New Partnerships in 2025				
Organizational documents	China Railway 20 Bureau Corporation (CR20BC)	-	22/10/2025	Submitted
Organizational assessment tool	CSONA	-	11/08/2025	Submitted
Organizational profile	Matchboxology: Human Centered Design (HCD), behaviour change strategy and communications incubator	-	10/02/2025	Submitted
Capacity statement	PSI Malawi	-	15/08/2025	Submitted
Organizational Profile	Clinical Research Education and Management Services (CREAMS Mw)	-	14/03/2025	Submitted

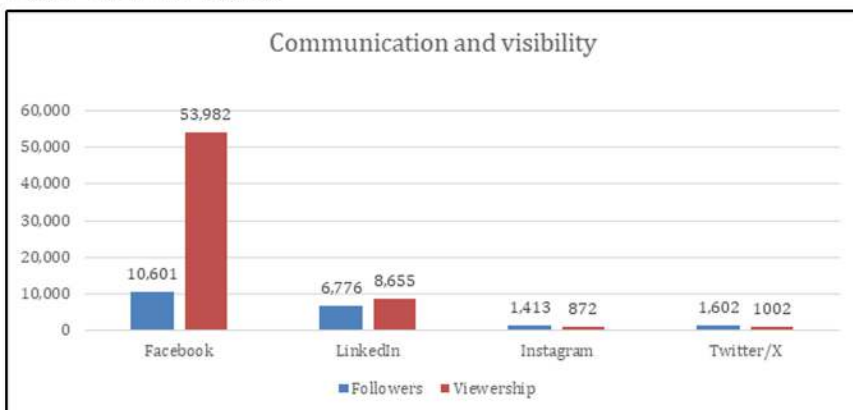
2.4.1 SOCIAL ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

CYECE hosted a site for an online course on Monitoring and Evaluation in Global Health under the University of Washington Global Health E-Learning Program. The course commenced on 30th January to 30th March 2025. It had an enrolment of 50 individuals who were trained on different aspects of monitoring and evaluation. In addition, it also hosted an online course on Transforming your leadership and management skills. It has an enrolment of 9 individuals. Training 50 participants in monitoring and evaluation and 9 in leadership and management enhanced the organization's credibility and technical reputation. This initiative created opportunities for income generation through training services, partnerships, and potential consultancy work. It also contributed to diversifying revenue streams, reducing reliance on donor funding. Furthermore, strengthened internal competencies improved program quality, accountability, and competitiveness in resource mobilization. Overall, the initiative supports CYECE's transition toward a sustainable and impact-driven social enterprise model.

3.0 COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY

During the year 2025, CYECE continued to strengthen its visibility through continuous engagement across its social media platforms. This resulted in increased visibility and growth in followers and viewership. The organization now has 10,601 followers on Facebook, 1,413 on Instagram, 1,602 on Twitter and 6,776 on LinkedIn. Page viewership also recorded positive trends, with Instagram reaching 872 views and LinkedIn 8,655 views. However, Twitter and Facebook experienced slight declines, reaching 1,002 and 53,982 views respectively. The graph below summarizes CYECE's communication and visibility.

Figure 16: CYECE visibility



4.0 PARTNERSHIPS

CYECE maintained its active engagement with stakeholders to enhance collaboration and expand its network. During the year, the organization reinforced its involvement by taking part in district executive committee and technical working group meetings, providing input and support during discussions. CYECE also contributed to initiatives led by the networks to which it is affiliated. The table below outlines the partnerships and networks in which 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

5.0 CHALLENGES AND EMERGING ISSUES

During the reporting year, CYECE experienced several challenges that affected the implementation of activities across its various projects. Including;

- **General election:** Due to the general election, there were disruptions to community engagements, youth dialogues, and training activities as a result of increased public gatherings. In some districts, political campaigns diverted community attention away from child protection, SRHR, and youth development initiatives, which affected the implementation of field activities.
- **Climate change:** During the reporting year, Malawi experienced prolonged dry spells and erratic rainfall, which negatively affected agricultural income generating activities that are important for sustaining school feeding programs, in addition in Machinga women in Madzianjuchi, as well as other female champion groups practicing home gardening, struggled to water their vegetables, resulting in reduced productivity and participation in livelihood activities.
- **Economic challenges:** Fuel shortages disrupted field operations and delayed the implementation of several project activities. Limited mobility affected monitoring, community engagement and timely delivery of planned intervention.
- **Post-election transitions:** The change in government following the elections shifted national focus areas and priorities. Such transitions can slow coordination with key stakeholders and potentially affected the implementation timeline of activities.
- **Socio-cultural factors:** Conflicts involving Traditional Leaders, community structures and local groups delayed planned activities and disrupted coordination. In addition, harmful practices persisted, with some families protecting perpetrators of early marriage or sexual harassment and referring cases to traditional leaders instead of formal authorities. These issues slowed case management and hindered progress in safeguarding.
- **Donors are frequently updating their focus areas and proposal formats to align with emerging global challenges such as climate resilience and food systems transformation i.e. The addressing food safety challenges in the African informal sector through innovative strategies & use cases call for application.**

6.0 LESSONS LEARNT

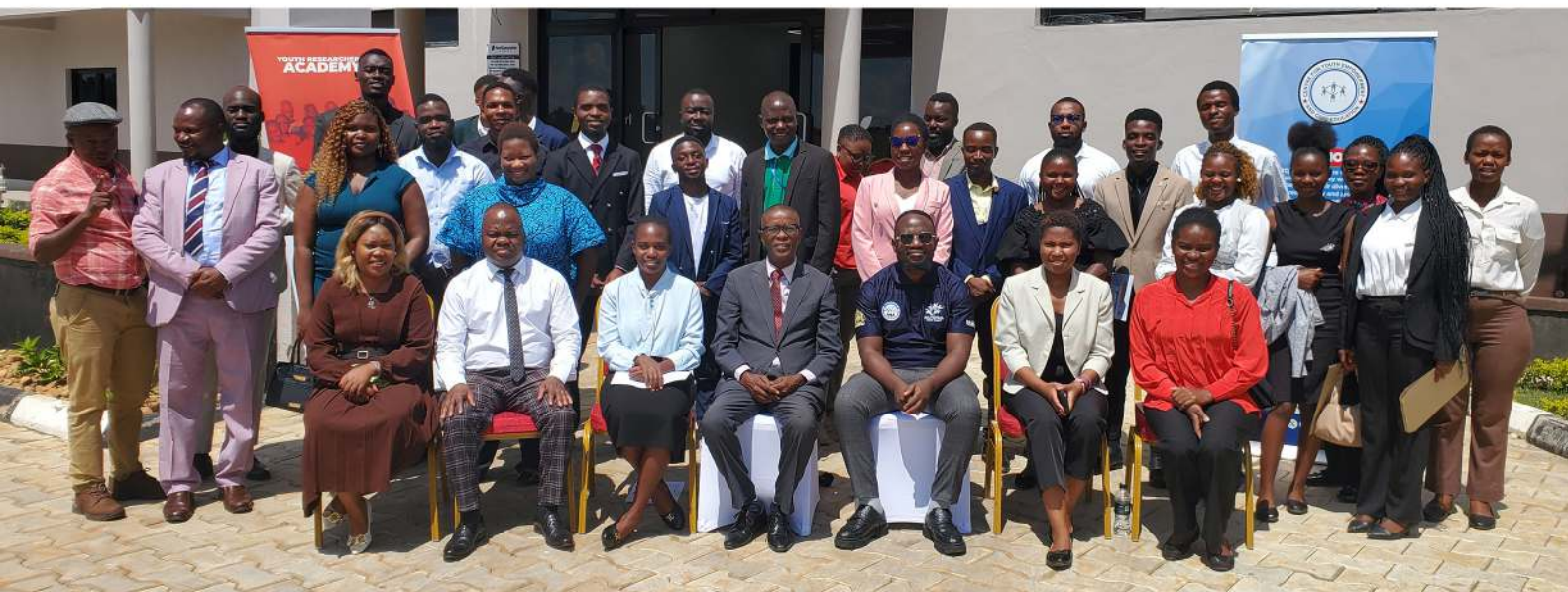
- **Adaptive resource mobilization strengthens institutional resilience:** Aligning proposals with emerging global and donor priorities such as climate resilience enhances organizational competitiveness, increases funding opportunities, improves institutional relevance and reduces reliance on single donors, thereby strengthening long-term sustainability.
- **Transparent communication builds trust and institutional credibility:** Maintaining open, consistent, and honest communication with donors, beneficiaries, and key stakeholders strengthens accountability and reinforces confidence in program implementation. Proactively sharing budgets, planned activities, progress, achievements, and areas for improvement demonstrates integrity, fosters mutual learning, and strengthens long-term partnerships.
- **Strategic visibility and digital engagement expand partnerships and youth reach:** Proactive documentation, public showcasing of impact, and effective use of digital platforms enhance institutional credibility, increase youth participation and strengthen awareness and skills building initiatives. Enhanced strong visibility positions for the organization as a trusted and capable actor, attracting partners to proactively seek collaboration.
- **Strengthening local systems and strategic partnerships drives coordinated and sustainable impact:** By investing in capacity-building, community engagement, and structured collaboration with traditional leaders and community-based structures, the organization has improved accountability, minimized duplication, and ensured timely responses to SGBV and child protection issues. Simultaneously, empowering youth leadership and enhancing youth research capacity has increased credibility, visibility, and innovation, enabling young people to actively shape advocacy processes and contribute to long-term community development outcomes.
- **Continuous staff professional development strengthens program quality and institutional performance:** Investing in staff training and skills enhancement improves technical competence and leadership capacity. Well-trained and adequately supported staff deliver more effective, accountable, and results-oriented programs. Prioritizing ongoing learning enhances innovation, responsiveness to emerging challenges, institutional credibility, and overall organizational resilience, thereby strengthening long term impact and sustainability

7.0 CONCLUSION AND WAY FORWARD

During the year 2025, CYECE made notable progress in strengthening child protection, promoting SRHR and empowering youth across its program areas. Collaborative efforts with community structures, traditional leaders, Safeguarding Forums and youth clubs enhanced monitoring, reporting and response to SGBV and child rights violations, while youth-led initiatives and mentorship programs fostered innovation, behavior change and active participation. Capacity-building of adolescents, young people and community actors increased visibility, credibility and sustainability of interventions.

Way Forward: Building on these achievements, CYECE will prioritize strengthening integrated programming approaches to address interconnected social, economic, and protection challenges more holistically. Growth priorities will include scaling up Safeguarding Forums to additional districts, expanding youth-led advocacy platforms, deepening engagement with traditional and faith leaders to address socio-cultural barriers, and strengthening monitoring, evaluation, and learning systems to improve evidence-based programming.

Strategically, CYECE will focus on institutional sustainability and resilience through enhanced resource mobilization and diversified partnerships, including the implementation of a Social Enterprise Development Strategy aimed at creating sustainable funding and reducing reliance on donor funding.





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