

PYAO NEWSLETTER

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PYAO COMMENDED ON TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Phalombe District Council has commended Phalombe Youth Arms Organization (PYAO) for providing timely progress reports of its projects in the district.

Chairperson for the council, Francis Nunkhazingwe made the remarks recently during an interface meeting with the organization and other stakeholders.

According to Nunkhazingwe, PYAO is among countable organizations present in the

district which feed partners and stakeholders with information in time.

“We have a lot of organizations in this district which have more funding, but not all of them are forthcoming with reports, a thing that leads to lack of appreciation of their work,” said Nunkhazingwe, adding that unlike the many, PYAO has shown interest in updating the council time after time.

He said the reports were

Important as they form a basis for the organization’s continued operations in the district.

Executive Director for PYAO Vincent Thom said the organization values updating the council and stakeholders on its work.

“We are humbled by the Council’s appreciation which we feel will boost our work,” Thom said.

PYAO is implementing three projects in Phalombe district.

WORD FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



We are proud to introduce PYAO`s first ever edition of newsletter which we will be releasing quarterly. This is to continue contact and interaction with our donors, partners, and stakeholders.

This comes with a promise of great growth and change. This inaugural edition specifically designed to help PYAO, Youth Networks, Youth Clubs and the youth in general grow and succeed.

You will find that it is filled with educational information, helps hints and tips, events, news and updates from our programs and partners (youths, youth clubs, youth networks and CBOs) programs.

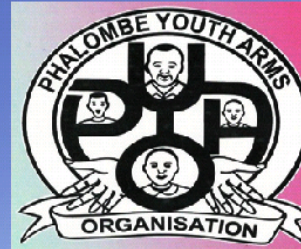
We want this newsletter to be valuable for you so please share your feedback and suggestions to help us improve. If you have or are related to children, adolescent girls and young women, and youths and want to learn more about their good work and how to support them as they journey through, we think you will love this quarterly newsletter.

We at PYAO feels that the implementation and monitoring of programs and projects is meaningless if the targeted people are not well involved, engaged and included in issues identification, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the programs.

As an organization that has been at apex of youth development work at the local level, we believe that there must be maximum and meaningful participation of the youths and local communities in designing through evaluation.

Sincerely,

Vincent Makuluni Thom



VISION

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

MISSION

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

FOCUS AREAS

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

STRATEGY

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

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GBV rise worries Police, Judiciary

Authorities in Phalombe district have expressed worry over the rise of Gender Based Violence (GBV) cases in the district.

The rise was revealed through interface meetings which the Phalombe Youth Arms Organization (PYAO) conducted in all the Traditional Authorities of the district.



One of the meetings at Senior Chief Nkhulambe Court's ground

Community Policing Coordinator for Phalombe Police Station, Inspector Miltons Moyo, said despite the rise it is evident that the cases are even higher because some cases remain concealed in the communities.

"I am very confident that the current figures are not clearly painting the actual picture of the status of the GBV cases in the communities and this worries us a lot as a station," said Moyo.

Chairperson for the GBV Technical Working Group for Phalombe, Damson Banda, who is also a First Grade Magistrate in the district concurred with Moyo, saying the situation is worrisome.

"This is very sad especially to us as a group that is in the forefront fighting GBV. Our worry is that there are a lot of unjust acts happening out there that do not even come to the surface.

"We need to make resolutions with other non-governmental organizations who are working towards ending GBV cases in the district so that we should have awareness campaigns across the district to end the violence," said Banda.

PYAO held the meetings with support from ViiV Healthcare .

Youth Officer Applauds PYAO for Project targeting the Y+

District Youth Officer for Phalombe district council Ian Sukali has applauded PYAO for its project aiming at improving delivery and access to HIV services for young people living with HIV.

Sukali said this during stakeholders meeting where the ViiV Healthcare sponsored project which seeks to help the targeted youths in this Covid-19 pandemic era was being introduced.

He said the initiative is a welcome development as it will capacitate youths on issues of health rights and Covid-19 prevention measures.

"It's a first of its kind project targeting Y+ networks since their establishment so this is a great opportunity to orient them about their

health rights and link them with the health department for easy access to critical services. As the department of youth we are thrilled about this project and we will support it," said Sukali.

Executive Director for PYAO, Vincent Thom, told the press in an interview that his organisation wants youths living with HIV to know their health rights hence the need to also link them up with health services providers.

The six-month project funded to a tune of 13, 999 British Pounds is expected to be completed by the end of December this year.

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PYAO mentors Peer Educators

30 Peer Educators have been trained in demand creation and Sexual Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) advocacy in a quest to increase interaction between young people on matters affecting them.

The Peer Educators drawn from all the 10 Traditional Authorities in the district participated in the mentorship training held at Phalombe Teacher Training College with support from ViiV Healthcare.

On the sidelines of the training, PYAO's Programmes Manager, Stanford Chidule, told the media that his organization would like to see the trainees spearheading access to SRHR services among their fellow youths.

"We are expecting them to be conducting sessions with their fellow peers as they will be sharing information on SRHR, Youth Friendly Health Services (YFHS) and any other issue that matters most to them.

"They also be acting as counselors to fellow youths towards mindset and behavior change," he said.

Chidule added that the Peer Educators will be key stakeholders for ending child marriages and teenage pregnancies in their respective communities.

During the training District Youth Officer, Ian Sukali, advised the participants to make use of the skills gained during the training to strengthen interventions which their youth clubs are carrying out in their societies.

"This is an important training, I know their communities won't be the same again if they will be using what they put

the lessons to good use.



They'll make a difference: Sukali

One of the trained Peer Educator Rhoda Douglas of Phunduma Youth Club in Kaledzera Youth Network said she will utilize every little knowledge which she gained during the training.

"The training was useful. We have learnt so many things such as how we can mentor our fellow youths on different issues which matter most to us.

"We will be able to help in reducing teenage pregnancies as we will be advising our colleagues on importance of accessing SRHR, YFHS among others," she said.

Another Peer Educator, Successor Isaac, who is chairperson for Phweremwe Sub Youth Network said the training was an eye opener on other matters which youths from his area were not aware of.

"There is knowledge gap on YFHS in our area, now I'll teach them." he said.

The Peer Educators were trained under the project of "Leveraging positive action towards reducing violence against women and girls" which is receiving financial support from ViiV Healthcare.



Youth Champions told to be vigilant

Youth Friendly Health Services (YFHS) Coordinator for Phalombe district Maurine Chilikutali has advised youth champions to be active in all their activities if problems which the youths face are to be solved.

Chilikutali made these remarks after inspecting some of the 50 trained youth champions in the Traditional Authority Chiwalo.

According to her the youth champions are supposed to be watchful and alert so that they should achieve their intended purposes.

“Throughout where we have been I have seen that most of you (Youth Champions) are doing fine, what you need is to be active in advocating matters to do with access to sexual reproductive health rights among fellow youths.

“Lets help our communities with what learnt in those trainings,” said Chilikutali.

She added by asking the champions to continue encouraging their fellow youths from different clubs to be meeting and be discussing matters that concern their health.

“We have YFHS in our health facilities so its better if we should be meeting and discuss issues that affect us, let’s make use of our Nambazo Health Centre,” she said.



Phalombe YFHS Coordinator

On his part Family Planning Coordinator, Ganizani Paul, advised the youth champions to carry on encouraging fellow youths in using contraceptives to avoid teenage pregnancies and unplanned marriages.

One of the youth champions Sasinu Tsoka said among others he has been helping in dissolution of teen marriages and following up on matters of violence against women and children.

Tsoka said recently he got a tip that certain older man had defiled an

Under age girl and impregnated her.

“I followed up this matter which people wanted to die without the justice being done , now it has been reported to police and I am sure the perpetrator will be prosecuted,” he said.

Another youth champion Racheal Matemba said she has been helping with SRHR information to girls who are indulging themselves in sexual malpractices with fishermen along Poto lagoon.

In her remarks Project Officer on SRH for PYAO, Elizabeth Mwafongo, told the champions that her organization will be assisting them if the need arise so that they should get maximum results from their plans.

The youth champions were trained under the project of strengthening provision of method mix and improving access to family planning methods among Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) with financial support from FP2020

The youth champions were drawn from all the areas of 10 traditional authorities in the district.

Defilement Cases on the rise in Phalombe



Pic: Phalombe GBV TWG Chaiperson

Phalombe Gender Based Violence (GBV) Technical Working Group (TWG) Chairperson Damson Banda has bemoaned the increase in defilement cases in the district.

Banda said this during the group’s monthly meeting organized by PYAO.

He said the increase is worrisome and that it is sad that some men are shamelessly defiling children aged less than a year .

Banda who is also Magistrate said there is need for stakeholders government and non-governmental stakeholders to join hands to end such malpractices.

“The way cases of the defilement and rape are coming to the Court are worrying there is something has to be done so that we should end these cases. If all the stakeholders put much effort I am certain that we’ll deal with this,” he said.

Leaders commit to end early marriages, SGBV



Traditional Counselor demonstrating one of the things they teach young girls during initiation ceremonies

Local leaders in Phalombe district have vowed to end early marriages and sexual Gender Based Violence (SGBV) among women and girls in the district.

Religious leaders, Chiefs, traditional counselors (Anamkungwi/ Angaliba) and community leaders made the vow during capacity building meetings which PYAO conducted across the district.

PYAO's Programmes Manager , Stanford Chidule told the press that the organization held the workshops in order to boost community knowledge to enable people to look after women and girls better.

"We met these leaders so that we should hear what they tell their people about protecting women and children especially girls. You can see that we were with our friends from Police, Judiciary, Health and social welfare so that they should give them other proper ideas.

"I believe leaders like traditional

counselors have critical roles in the villages in as far imparting manners to a girl child is concerned, I am sure after these trainings they'll change some of the contents of what they teach," said Chidule.

One of the traditional counselors Fanny Bulaki alias Nabiyeni said the training was very fruitful but however she said there is need to join hands if the early marriages and SGBV are to be reduced.

"We need different stakeholders to join hands so that we should deal with this problem of early marriages. Parents, Chiefs among others need to be in forefront too.

"I am very thankful to PYAO for gathering us together here, there is a lot we have learnt here which will be useful when initiation ceremonies return after this Covid19. I'm sure violence against women and girls will be a thing of a past," Bulaki said.

Area Development Committee (ADC) Chairperson for Kaledzera, Reck Minjolo, said the messages which

he got he'll be sharing with people during all their developmental meetings in the area so that people should know dangers of marrying off young girls.

"The message has come in time and we will be telling people in this area during our meetings, We need to encourage our girls to work hard at school, I'm sure soon stories of early marriages and sexual violence against women and girls will be a thing of past," said Minjolo.

On his part, Social Welfare Officer at Phalombe District Council, Beaton Mpilisi, said his office won't tolerate seeing SGBV increasing and he warned that all perpetrators will be reported to Police for prosecution.

"We have Child Protection Workers in the villages and their duty is to look after the children that their rights are not being abused, once we hear a child has been sexually abused we do not hesitate but report that to Police so that justice should be served," he said.



Pic Mpilisi emphasizing a point

Meanwhile PYAO has promised that it will be meeting the local leaders time and again so that they should be updating each other on the progress of the fight against SGBV.

Field moments on camera



Youth Champions during the refresher training break



Part of participants during self testing kits distributors review



People listening to GBV messages despite rains



Moses Kathumba, Mkhumba Youth Network Chairperson presenting a report



Phalombe Police PRO Innocent Moses making his presentation at T/A Kaledzera ground



PYAO briefing the councilors on issues arising from the projects



Part of audience at Dindi Primary School in T/A Chiwalu during GBV awareness campaign



Part of a play by Afikepo youth club in T/A Jenala during GBV awareness campaign

PYAO conducts trainings for YCBDAs



Pic: YCBDAs training in progress at T/A Chiwalo ground

A total of 63 Youth Community Based Distribution Agents (YCBDA's) have been reminded the need of working with other stakeholders for family planning strategies to reach every youth in Phalombe District.

The YCBDAs were told these during refresher trainings which PYAO in collaboration with the district health

Office and youth office of the Phalombe district council.

The trainings were held in all the traditional authorities across the district.

YFHS Coordinator for Phalombe, Maureen Chilikutali reminded the YCBDAs about policies and how they can increase the demand for SRHR and family planning services in line with the guidelines.

She was also told the YCBDAs the importance of working with others such as Youth Champions who were also part of the trainings.

Chilikutali then encouraged the two parties to take issues of reporting

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Seriously and the need of reviewing their action plans.

PYAO Executive Director for Vincent Thom described the training that were important as the YCBDAs are strong part of the access to SRHR and family planning services to young people in the areas which are far away from health facilities.

Thom has since pledged to give full support to the YCBDAs.



PYAO commits in distributing family planning methods



Banda (right) during one the recent tours where he was distributing condoms to youths in hard to reach area

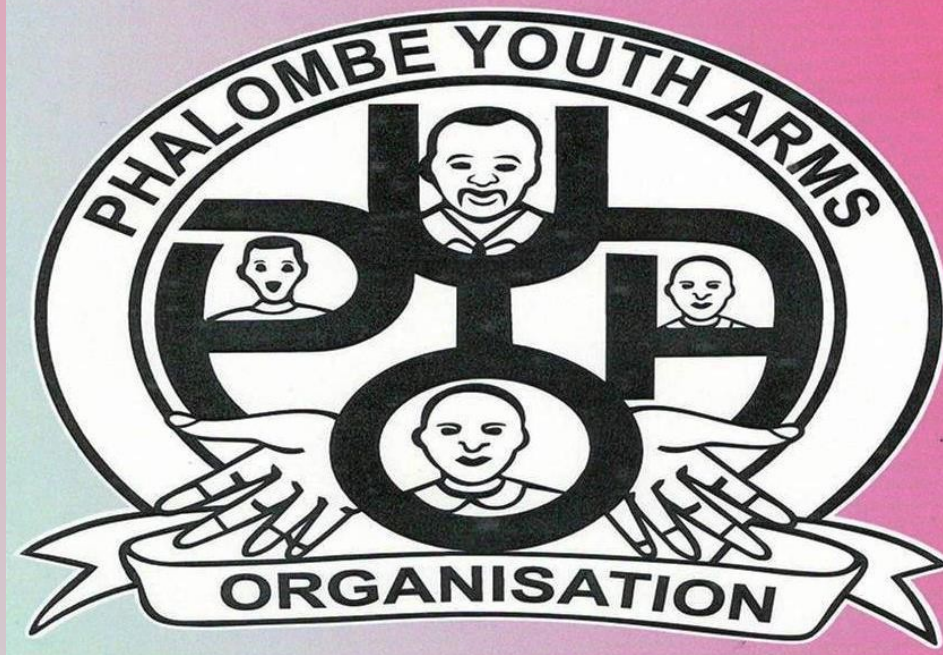
Condoms Coordinator for PYAO, Yasin Banda, says his office will continue distributing condoms and other family planning methods to hard to reach areas of the district which are far from health facilities.

Banda said this during his tour when he was distributing condoms and emergency pills to youths in the Traditional Authorities of Nkhulambe and Phweremwe.

“We’ll be doing this so that we should prevent more girls from getting teenage pregnancies which are increasing early marriages and drop out of school.

“Youths can also be coming to our office and collect these methods and they may also go to their nearest health facility,” said Environment and Climate Justice Programme Officer.

PYAO is doing this in partnership with the health office of the district.



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

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

Thank You for Reading Our Newsletter



POSITIVE ACTION