



INSPIRE



December 2008 No.19

We are hundreds of young Africans impacting positive changes in thousands of lives in Africa! Joins us!



IN THIS ISSUE

NAYD NEWS

- Editorial ...P1
- YONECO Takes Holistic Approach against Aids...P2-3
- Change Will Come Step by Step ...P3-4
- WHY I JOINED NAYD.P4

OPPORTUNITIES

- Announcement ... P4
- Wisdom Corner ...P4
- IN THE NEXT EDITION..P4
- About NAYD & Offices ... P5

EDITORIAL

BEAT THE NEGATIVITY AND ACHIEVE!

How do you get up in the morning? Do you drag yourself out of bed probably still angry at all that went wrong yesterday or you jump out of it eager to find out what the new day has in store for you?

I have gone through bouts of doubt and self doubt these days that finally it just dawned on me that we are participants in our future. How we look at our challenges determine in great part the outcome.

It can cause you to become a cynic, lose your enthusiasm and positive attitude, and cause you to soon expect the worst of any situation. Inspirational speaker Harry Jones puts it this way « being exposed to it in heavy doses can take its toll. It can cause you to become a cynic, lose your enthusiasm and positive attitude, and cause you to soon expect the worst of any situation ».

Being an activist means going against the wave almost all the time. And you sure receive lashes each time you stand against a wave. And young persons involved in development work, especially around Africa are often tempted to see things only in terms of « what is going wrong and what has not gone right» Given that, that is one way of seeing things, this month, we invite you to choose the other way. When you are blessed with a new day, face it with positive expectation. Take it like you would a blank sheet of paper. It is all yours to decide what you put on it. To help you start the month in grand style, here are five motivational quotes from my special selection

1. *The man who believes he can do something is probably right, and so is the man who believes he can't!*. Anonymous
It's not what you are that holds you back, it's what you think you are not. Denis Waitley, author
3. *Fall seven times, stand up eight.* Japanese Proverb
4. *Failure can be divided into those who thought and never did and into those who did and never thought.* Rev. W.A. Nance
5. *Fear is that little darkroom where negatives are developed.* Michael Pritchard

■ POCHI TAMBA, CEO, NAYD International

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The editors have taken every care to make sure that the contents of this newsletter are as accurate as possible. The authors have ultimate responsibility, however, for the content of individual articles.

NAYD MEMBERS

YONECO Takes Holistic Approach against Aids

Youth Net and Counselling (YONECO) has taken a holistic approach in the fight against HIV and AIDS. The local organization has a number of activities that promote prevention, mitigation and empowerment of affected and vulnerable groups. HIV and AIDS continue to spread among young people, women and children in Malawi. 30% of children are born with the virus that causes AIDS. The pandemic is leaving behind orphans and the aged who have no one to support them. Women are left as widows with the burden of looking after children.

Prevention: Despite people knowing the existence of the virus that causes AIDS within us, people still engage in unprotected sex.



YONECO realize that continuous awareness is important if we are to reduce the spread of HIV and AIDS. The organization is conducting HIV and AIDS awareness campaigns through community awareness meetings, provision of male and female condoms, peer education, online counselling on toll free line, sending sms to subscribers who are in the organization's sms bulk tool

system and distribution of IEC materials with HIV information. The organization conducts awareness campaigns at community level using its cultural troupe. YONECO also distribute female and male condoms to young people, women and men who cannot abstain or are HIV positive and married.

In September 2006 YONECO established the first ever toll free helpline in Malawi. The line is called Tinthandizane Helpline. Since its establishment the toll free line has provided online counselling to over 15,000 young people on issues like; abuse and violence, HIV/AIDS, sexuality and relationships, commercial exploitation, child labour etc. all the issue have a link to the spread of HIV and AIDS as vulnerable women, youth and children are highly at risk. Another initiative the organization established is called sms bulk tool system. YONECO send HIV and AIDS sms to people who subscribed their mobile numbers to the system. At the moment more than 2,300 people received YONECO sms. The subscribers include all members of parliament and principle secretaries. Apart from the helpline YONECO has also trained young people on peer education. YONECO believes that young people are better placed to talk to each other. The organization also produces IEC materials on HIV and AIDS. YONECO believe that distribution of IEC materials reaches where the organization cannot reach. For over three years now YONECO has been communicating the research findings on the research which was conducted by centre for social research of University of Malawi in 2004. The research was on protecting the next generation and understanding HIV risk among the youth. The organization has produced desk calendars, wall calendars and monograph. The IEC materials have been distributed to members of

parliament, principle secretaries, NGOs, District Commissioners, Youth Officers, Media Houses and district social welfare officers. Apart from disseminating research findings of other institutions, the organization also conduct its own research on issues that affect its target beneficiaries. In 2006 YONECO conducted a survey to find out the interaction between mental health and HIV/AIDS. The publication of the results won an award called Suez Memorial award which is coordinated by Oxfam in United Kingdom. The award was worth 3,000 British pounds. It was presented to the organization in august 2008 by the former president of Zambia, Dr. Kenneth Kaunda.

YONECO Cultural Troupe conducting HIV and AIDS awareness

Mitigating the impact of HIV and AIDS

YONECO realizes that the spread of HIV and AIDS is leaving behind huge problems the society has to bear. Children are becoming orphans, women becoming widows and the aged having no one to support them. The organization support vulnerable children with educational materials and school fees. At the moment the organization pays school fees for 50 children. YONECO believes that once orphans are educated they will be able to become self reliant. Apart from paying school fees for vulnerable children the organization also provide food supplement to children, women and young people living with the virus that causes AIDS. Food supplement are given to PLWHAs who are under ARV treatment. This is to complement the treatment as not many can afford the required food. Children born to HIV positive women are given special milk i.e. Lactogen 1 and 2. The provision of the milk is to avoid the child getting HIV from her/his mother. On the other hand many infected mothers cannot afford the milk. The elderly are not left out. They are also supported through provision of farm inputs. These include two bags of fertilizer and maize seeds. Child headed families and families with PLWHAs are part of the beneficiaries of farm inputs. YONECO believe in promoting food security in HIV and AIDS affected families

Distribution of Food Supplements to child PLWHAs



Distribution of farm inputs to vulnerable families

Empowering vulnerable children, women and young people

The spread of HIV will continue if children, women and young people are still vulnerable. YONECO believes that empowering the three most vulnerable groups we can reduce the spread of the

virus. YONECO initiated a number of activities that are empowering vulnerable children, women and young people. These include provision of soft loans, water pumps, treadle pumps, life skills and educational support. YONECO provide soft loans to commercial sex workers, widows and youth groups. The soft loans are aimed at discouraging women / sex workers from earning their living through sex. While young people in groups are encouraged to keep themselves busy through agro based activities that benefit them and the communities they serve.

Vulnerable children are also empowered through provision of life skills sessions. This is done through training them on how they can compose songs and play electric musical equipment. Since December 2007 42 children in the street have been learning on how to compose songs and play electric equipment. Now they have composed 9 songs and recorded 2. The



two songs Tipewe and Imfa are enjoying air play in major radio stations in Malawi. For child domestic servants YONECO realizes that they kids run away from poverty from their respective homes. YONECO cannot send them back to poverty instead the organization negotiated with their employers to allow the child domestic servants to undergo informal education. YONECO expect reintegration of the domestic servants into formal education system as the negotiation with employers is ongoing. (*YONECO Children's Band in picture*)

YONECO Background: Youth Net and Counselling (YONECO) is a local NGO which started in 1997. Youth Net and Counselling (YONECO) is a non-political, non-profit making non-governmental organization that was formed in September 1997. It was established to address the social injustice and reproductive health issues affecting the youth, women and children. YONECO registered with National Youth Council of Malawi under the National Youth Council (1996) Act, under the Trustees Incorporation Act (1962) in October 1999 and with the NGO Board in 2003. YONECO is a member to a number of networks like Council for Non Governmental Organizations in Malawi (CONGOMA), Malawi Education Network (MENET), Malawi Network of AIDS Service Organization (MANASO) and Human Rights Consultative Committee. YONECO became the member of the Human Rights Consultative Committee in 1998. YONECO is a member to international organizations which include: Gender Based Violence Prevention Network, World Association of Non Governmental Organizations (WANGO), International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN), Child Helpline International, CIVICUS among others.

YONECO Vision

“A self reliant HIV/AIDS - free society that respects democratic values and principles”

YONECO Mission

“YONECO is a non – governmental organization, which is committed to empowering the youth, women and children, combating the spread of HIV infection, mitigating the impact of AIDS and promoting democracy and human rights for socio – economic development”

Organizational objectives

YONECO pursues the following objectives:

- To promote positive youth, women and child development through counselling, life skills, leadership and entrepreneurship development;
- To safeguard, promote and protect human rights with particular reference to the rights of youth, women and children;
- To conduct civic education on HIV/AIDS, human rights, gender, democracy, and good governance among the general population;
- To enhance youth, women and children participation in democratization process and socio – economic development of the nation;
- To provide social and economic support services for abused and victimized women and children at community level;
- To provide care and support to those affected and infected with HIV/AIDS including people living with HIV/AIDS and orphans.

YONECO Programme Areas

YONECO has 4 key Programme Areas. These are;

- Youth Development Programme;
- Human Rights and Democracy;
- Women and Children Programme;
- Care and Support Programme.■

Change Will Come Step by Step

It is true that we need money for encouraging youths to stand for political seats. But know that the change will come step by step. So, through NGOs we can start organizing seminars, conferences, where we can talk to young people about the need of their involvement in politics. Radio and television programs are also very important to play a model role about this issue. By broadcastings and debates we can really reach the entire population. And all these do not need a lot of money. As they usually say that “Charity begins at home”, I have assisted my NGO members back home in Togo to organise something regarding this matter during the Peace Day , on the last 21st September 2008. And it was amazing!!! My collaborators had reached almost the whole country of Togo talking about PEACE through the national radio based in the Capital Lome. They did not talk directly or immediately about politics. The system is to start simply talking about peace, then after we will come

with development and slowly. And with a theme based on development we will be able to discuss about the change in the level of politics, economics and so on. We youths can also start doing the same thing in our respective countries with our respective NGOs. This is not politics. It normally does not have anything to do with reel politics. We are just fighting for CHANGE, and for DEVELOPMENT. We, young people, have to lift our voices. I am very sure that with unity we can do great things for the Change. ■

Tonton Yawo Abotsi (Young Development – Switzerland)

WHY I JOINED NAYD

Name : Christine Bei Tambi

Organisation : Journalist with canal 2 Internaional

Country : Douala-Cameroon

Development Interests: Like I read in our note the objective is to make Africa big: culture wise, economic wise, education etc. The truth is people need to change their mentalities and invest in OUR LAND OF AFRICA. I think there is no development without women - it will sensitise them on their rights and responsibilities.

Name: Philip S. K. Sesay

Organisation : Timap for Justice

Country : Freetown Sierra Leone

Development Interests: Fatherless and motherless children on the streets. I share a belief in your vision. Making Africa a liveable place to live in.

Name: Joseph Senyo Kwashie

Organisation : Community and family Aid Foundation

Country : Ghana

Development Interests: Thanks today's challenges indeed calls collaborative effort to overcome them. This calls for strong team work and commitment as well. I am really moved by the saying that "to understand something you need knowledge but to feel it you need experience" therefore I hope to share skills and experience with all and learn from all as well. I am always happy to join young people on the net doing great things we own our destiny as African youth and can lead the change we want as well thanks and I am happy to come on board

Name: Ahmed Saleh Ahmed

Organisation: Ministry of Youth

Country: Egypt

Development Interests: To help us in our world in Africa.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1 If any members would like to have their individual or organisation information and location on the NAYD map all we need is latitude and longitude, a postcode or a town/country. Send information to pauldavidshaw@btoopenworld.com.

2 Do you have anything to say about development in Africa or world events that affect Africa? How about telling the world about your organisation and what you do? Send information to info@nayd.org for inclusion in INSPIRE.

WISDOM CORNER!

“Do not make a decision when in anger”.
Christian Tabifor

“An ounce of mother is worth a pound of priests”.
Christian Tabifor

IN THE NEXT EDITION

In the twentieth edition of INSPIRE you'll find the following topics and issues amongst others

- More and more news on how African youths are impacting changes in the lives of people all over Africa.
- Events, Opportunities and Resources.

For inquiries, please write to
nayd2007@yahoo.com

What is NAYD?

NAYD is the Network of African youths for Development .It began in 2006 and today involves close to 40 youth-led projects in about 20 African countries.

How can you join NAYD?

You are welcome to join NAYD and support the activities of its members. Write to nayd2007@yahoo.com for more information.

Have something to say! Great! Write to us at the above mentioned email and we shall put your article on the newsletter. We invite you to tell the world through our **INSPIRE**: whatever you want to share on development. Are you part of an organisation helping people to be positive? Are you dreaming of a better Africa? Join us and make your voice heard. Send us a mail. Specifically, the objectives NAYD as outlined in its constitution are:

- To promote and encourage the work done by young Africans in effecting positive change on the continent.
- To facilitate exchange between youths involved in development, by creating a network of exchange.
- To further the networks formed by and for young Africans for the development of the continent.
- To promote recognition of, mobilise and enhance the capacity of Young Africans internationally and provide them with leadership skills to take action against poverty. To achieve its vision, NAYD works with associations and groups of youths across the African continent and beyond to educate, inform and inspire others to use their power, privilege, skills and abilities to create a better world for current and future generations.

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