



# Malawi Youth Network

## About the Network

Young people in Malawi face many challenges to their health, education, employment, empowerment, participation and overall wellbeing. Guiding young people into a healthy and productive adulthood is not only vital to their wellbeing, but also critical for the social and economic development of Malawi itself.

To help young people tackle the challenges they're facing, 12 youth champions were picked from within marginalized communities to act as young leaders and champions for those communities, each representing a wider network of around 50 youth volunteers.

## Youth Empowerment

Many youth programs in the country have historically focused on sexual and reproductive health and rights. While an important issue for young people, other critical economic, political and environmental concerns can end up sidelined, and when young people are focused on simply making ends meet, engaging with these can be especially challenging.

Building knowledge and skills in areas such as political economic analysis, social accountability, participation and inclusion enables young people to participate in policy and decision-making, such as workshops, advocacy, and consultation in national and global youth events.

As a result, young people in Malawi are finding their voice. Youth volunteers have been building and re-building networks and youth clubs, opening lines of communication with members

of parliament, and participating in key global events such as the annual conference of International Volunteer Cooperation Organisations (IVCO).

### **Sustainable development**

While young people have a vested interest in sustainability, climate change and conservation – as the group who will be most affected by future changes to the environment – there are few alternatives in energy sources, green jobs, or even accessible information regarding the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) available to them.

To ensure young Malawians can play an active role in shaping the policies that will affect them the most, youth champions have been working in communities to promote interest and engagement with sustainable development, and coordinating the Review of the Voluntary National Report for Sustainable Development Goals.



# **12 youth champions hand-picked from within marginalized communities**



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