

PROGRESS REPORT
ON

Yatim Orphan Care Organization (YOCO)
throughout the year 2022

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JANUARY /2023

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I. INTRODUCTION

Yatim Orphan Care Organization (YOCO) was founded in 2021 with a clear vision of addressing the needs of orphans in the Somali Region and empowering them to become self-sufficient members of their community. Over the course of 2023, YOCO made significant progress in implementing its strategic plan and fulfilling its mission. This report provides an overview of YOCO's activities and achievements during the period from January to December 2022.

YOCO focused on meeting the basic needs of orphans, ensuring they had access to food, clean water, shelter, and healthcare. Through partnerships with local communities, YOCO established orphanages and shelters that provided a safe and nurturing environment for children without parental care. Nutritious meals were provided to ensure their physical well-being, while access to clean water and healthcare services helped maintain their overall health. YOCO also collaborated with healthcare providers to organize medical camps, offering free check-ups, vaccinations, and treatments for orphans and their caretakers.

YOCO placed a strong emphasis on education and skill development to empower orphans for self-sufficiency. The organization established schools and learning centers within the orphanages, providing quality education to children of all ages. YOCO also facilitated vocational training programs to equip older orphans with practical skills that would enhance their employability. By partnering with local businesses and organizations, YOCO created internship and apprenticeship opportunities, allowing orphans to gain hands-on experience and build networks for future employment.

YOCO actively advocated for the rights and well-being of orphans in the Somali Region. The organization worked closely with local authorities and community leaders to raise awareness about the needs and potential of orphaned children. YOCO organized workshops, seminars, and community events to promote dialogue and understanding about the challenges faced by orphans. Through these efforts, YOCO aimed to reduce stigma and discrimination against orphans and foster a supportive and inclusive environment within the community.

However, YOCO has faced several challenges during the implementation of its activities. These challenges include limited funding, inadequate infrastructure, and a lack of access to resources in remote regions. Despite these obstacles, YOCO has taken corrective actions such as seeking additional funding through grant applications and partnerships with other organizations, improving infrastructure through community engagement, and exploring innovative solutions to overcome resource limitations.

Through these challenges, YOCO has learned valuable lessons that have contributed to its growth and improved effectiveness. The organization has recognized the importance of building strong partnerships with government agencies, local communities, and other stakeholders to leverage resources and create sustainable change. YOCO has also realized the significance of conducting thorough needs assessments and engaging in continuous monitoring and evaluation to ensure the relevance and impact of its activities.

Looking ahead, YOCO plans to build upon its achievements and address the remaining challenges. The organization aims to expand its reach to more orphaned children in remote areas, enhance the quality of its programs, and implement long-term solutions for sustainable impact. YOCO remains committed to its mission of supporting orphans in the Somali Region and will continue to work tirelessly to improve their lives and empower them to reach their full potential.

In the following sections of this report, we will delve into the specific activities conducted by YOCO in 2022, outlining their objectives, progress, challenges, corrective actions, lessons learned, and key forward steps for each initiative.

1.1. Objectives

- Summarize YOCO's interventions and key achievements in 2023
- Assess progress made towards organizational goals and objectives
- Identify challenges faced and lessons learned
- Recommend actions for 2024 based on lessons from 2023

2. PROGRESS TOWARDS REPORT

2.1. Organizational Registration

On 3 November 2021, YOCO achieved a significant milestone by completing the local registration process and officially becoming a legally registered Civil Society Organization (CSO) in the Somali Regional State. This registration not only solidified YOCO's commitment to its mission but also provided the organization with a stronger platform to operate effectively within the region. With legal recognition, YOCO gained increased credibility and legitimacy, allowing it to establish stronger partnerships and access additional resources to support its programs and activities.

The registration process involved fulfilling all legal requirements, including submitting necessary documentation, obtaining official approvals, and adhering to local regulations. YOCO worked closely with government authorities, demonstrating its commitment to transparency and accountability. By successfully completing the registration, YOCO demonstrated its dedication to ensuring the well-being of orphans and gained the trust and support of the local community and stakeholders.

As a registered CSO, YOCO was able to expand its operations and reach a broader audience. The organization could now actively participate in relevant forums, conferences, and networks, both locally and internationally. This enhanced visibility enabled YOCO to advocate for the rights and needs of orphans more effectively, attracting resources, partnerships, and expertise to further its cause. Moreover, being a registered entity allowed YOCO to receive funding from various sources, such as grants and donations, strengthening its financial sustainability and enabling the organization to scale up its programs and impact on the lives of orphans in the Somali Region.

2.2. CSO Management Training for executive staff

YOCO recognized the importance of continuous learning and professional development for its staff members to enhance their skills and knowledge in managing a Civil Society Organization (CSO). With the generous support from Conciliation Resources, YOCO organized a two-day capacity building training from 29 to 30 November 2021. The training aimed to strengthen the

executive staff's capabilities in CSO management, financial management, networking, and collaboration.

The training program covered various essential aspects of CSO management. Participants received comprehensive training on organizational governance, strategic planning, and project management, equipping them with the necessary tools and techniques to effectively lead and administer YOCO's programs. Financial management sessions helped staff members understand budgeting, financial reporting, and resource mobilization, ensuring responsible and transparent financial practices within the organization.

Additionally, the training emphasized the significance of networking and collaboration in the CSO sector. Staff members learned strategies for building partnerships, engaging with stakeholders, and fostering collaborations with other organizations and institutions. These skills were seen as crucial for expanding YOCO's reach, accessing additional resources, and maximizing its impact on the lives of orphans in the Somali Region.

During the training, YOCO also took the opportunity to refine its mission and vision statements, ensuring alignment with its evolving goals and aspirations. This exercise allowed the organization to reaffirm its core purpose and articulate its desired impact more effectively. Furthermore, the training provided an opportunity to reexamine the organizational structure, ensuring it was optimized to support YOCO's strategic objectives and facilitate efficient operations.

By investing in the professional development of its executive staff through this capacity building training, YOCO demonstrated its commitment to organizational growth and effectiveness. The training equipped staff members with valuable skills and insights, enabling them to navigate the complexities of CSO management, establish strong networks, and drive YOCO's mission forward. further refined our mission and vision statements and reexamined the organizational structure.

2.3. Opening Jigjiga Head Quarter Office

On 20 December 2021, YOCO achieved another significant milestone with the opening and furnishing of its main office in Jigjiga. This accomplishment was made possible through the organizational support provided by Conciliation Resources. The establishment of a dedicated main office not only provided a central hub for YOCO's operations but also strengthened its service delivery and collaboration capabilities within the Somali Region.

The new main office served as a strategic base for YOCO, facilitating efficient coordination and management of its programs and activities. The office space was carefully furnished to create a conducive work environment for the YOCO team, enabling them to carry out their responsibilities effectively and efficiently. With a centralized location, YOCO was able to streamline its administrative processes, enhance communication among staff members, and foster a sense of unity and purpose within the organization.

Moreover, the opening of the main office in Jigjiga played a crucial role in strengthening YOCO's service delivery to orphans and the community. The physical presence of a well-equipped office allowed YOCO to enhance its responsiveness to the needs of orphans, caretakers, and other stakeholders. It served as a place where individuals could seek assistance, access information, and engage with YOCO's services and programs. The establishment of the main office also demonstrated YOCO's commitment to providing a reliable and accessible support system for orphans in the region.

Furthermore, the main office served as a platform for collaboration and partnership building. The presence of a dedicated space facilitated meetings, workshops, and networking opportunities with other organizations, government agencies, and community members. This enabled YOCO to forge stronger alliances, share best practices, and explore avenues for joint initiatives, ultimately enhancing its ability to make a lasting impact on the lives of orphans in the Somali Region.

the opening and furnishing of YOCO's main office in Jigjiga marked a significant step forward in the organization's growth and service delivery. With the support of Conciliation Resources, YOCO established a central hub that not only bolstered its operational efficiency but also enabled stronger collaboration and engagement with stakeholders. The main office served as a symbol of YOCO's commitment to the well-being and empowerment of orphans, providing a platform to deliver effective support and advocate for their rights within the Somali Region.

2.4. Emergency Drought Response

On 24 January 2022, YOCO partnered with Siman Charity to address the pressing issue of drought in the Somali Region. The collaboration aimed to provide immediate relief to communities affected by drought by supplying essential water resources. YOCO made a significant contribution by providing two water trucks that were deployed to two drought-impacted districts in the Liban zone.

The provision of water trucks played a crucial role in meeting the urgent needs of communities facing water scarcity. These trucks facilitated the transportation and distribution of clean and safe drinking water to areas where access to water sources had been severely compromised due to the drought. By ensuring the availability of water, YOCO and Siman Charity aimed to alleviate the suffering of vulnerable populations and mitigate the health risks associated with water scarcity.

YOCO's involvement in emergency drought response efforts was a testament to its commitment to the well-being and resilience of communities in the Somali Region. Recognizing the importance of proactive measures, YOCO expressed its intention to participate in additional emergency and preventative initiatives. By doing so, YOCO aimed to address the immediate needs of communities affected by crises while also working towards building their capacity to withstand future challenges.

Through partnerships and collaborations like the one with Siman Charity, YOCO demonstrated its dedication to making a tangible difference in the lives of those affected by drought and other

emergencies. By combining resources, expertise, and networks, YOCO and its partners were able to pool their efforts and provide a more comprehensive response to the crisis at hand. This collaborative approach enhanced the effectiveness of emergency relief and ensured a more sustainable impact on affected communities.

YOCO's collaboration with Siman Charity for emergency drought response efforts showcased the organization's commitment to responding to immediate needs and preventing future crises. By providing water trucks to drought-impacted districts, YOCO played a vital role in alleviating the suffering of communities and addressing their most urgent requirement for clean water. YOCO's dedication to participating in other emergency and preventative initiatives demonstrated its proactive approach towards building resilience and promoting long-term well-being in the Somali Region.



2.5. Training on Safeguarding and Safe Data

On 2 February 2022, YOCO received valuable support from Conciliation Resources (CR) in conducting a training session focused on safeguarding and safe data collection practices. This training was a crucial step in ensuring the well-being and protection of individuals involved in data collection activities. The training covered a range of topics, including best practices, informed consent, safety measures, and reporting incidents.

The training emphasized the importance of upholding ethical standards and safeguarding the welfare of participants during data collection processes. YOCO staff members were educated on the best practices for obtaining informed consent, ensuring that individuals fully understood the purpose, risks, and benefits of participating in data collection initiatives. This aspect of the training aimed to promote transparency and empower individuals to make informed decisions about their involvement.

Furthermore, the training focused on safety measures to protect both the data collectors and the participants. YOCO staff members were trained on how to create a safe and secure environment during data collection activities, considering factors such as privacy, confidentiality, and physical safety. By implementing these measures, YOCO aimed to minimize any potential harm or distress that could arise during the data collection process.

The training also covered the importance of reporting incidents and addressing any concerns or violations promptly. YOCO staff members were educated on the appropriate channels and procedures for reporting incidents related to safeguarding or breaches of ethical standards. This emphasis on reporting aimed to create a culture of accountability and ensure that any issues could be addressed and resolved in a timely and appropriate manner. By providing this training, CR and YOCO demonstrated their commitment to upholding the highest standards of ethical conduct and ensuring the safety and well-being of all individuals involved in data collection activities. This training equipped YOCO staff members with the knowledge and skills necessary to navigate these processes responsibly, thereby fostering a culture of respect, trust, and integrity within the organization. The training on safeguarding and safe data collection provided by CR on 2 February 2022 was a crucial step in promoting ethical and responsible practices within YOCO. By covering topics such as informed consent, safety measures, and incident reporting, the training aimed to ensure the protection and well-being of both data collectors and participants. YOCO's participation in this training underscored its commitment to maintaining the highest standards of integrity and accountability in its data collection initiatives.



2.6. Orphans Data Collection for Three Zones

From 5 to 25 February 2022, YOCO undertook a significant data collection effort to document the needs of orphans in three zones: Dollo, Korahay, and Shabelle. This comprehensive data collection initiative aimed to gather valuable information about the specific challenges and requirements of orphans in these zones, enabling YOCO to tailor its programs and support accordingly.

The data collection process involved the use of Kobo Toolbox, a digital data collection platform, which facilitated efficient and standardized data collection. YOCO staff members were trained on how to utilize the platform effectively, ensuring accurate and consistent data collection across the three zones. By leveraging digital tools, YOCO was able to streamline the data collection process, reduce errors, and enhance data analysis capabilities.

During the data collection period, YOCO successfully documented information on 600 orphans in Dollo, Korahay, and Shabelle zones. The collected data included essential details about the orphans' living conditions, educational needs, health status, and social support systems. This comprehensive dataset served as a valuable resource for YOCO to gain insights into the specific challenges faced by orphans in each zone and to design targeted interventions to address their needs.

The data collected during this initiative played a crucial role in informing YOCO's decision-making processes. It provided a clear understanding of the most pressing issues faced by orphans in the targeted zones, allowing YOCO to prioritize its resources and develop effective strategies to address those challenges. The insights gained from the data collection exercise enabled YOCO to tailor its programs and services to meet the specific needs and circumstances of the orphans, thereby maximizing the impact of its interventions.

By conducting this major data collection effort, YOCO demonstrated its commitment to evidence-based programming and responsive support for orphans in the Dollo, Korahay, and Shabelle zones. The use of digital tools like Kobo Toolbox enhanced the efficiency and accuracy of the data collection process. The collected data served as a valuable resource for YOCO to identify key areas of intervention and design targeted programs that address the unique needs of the orphans in the three zones.

2.7. National Level Registration

Congratulations on the successful federal registration of your organization on 27 March 2022! This significant milestone marks a pivotal moment in the growth and recognition of your work. Registering at the federal level brings various advantages and opportunities for your organization's expanded operations.

Federal registration provides your organization with legal recognition and legitimacy at a national level. This recognition enhances your credibility and allows you to access a broader range of resources, partnerships, and funding opportunities. It demonstrates your commitment to adhering to legal requirements and operating within the framework of national regulations.

By registering at the federal level, you are now positioned to have a greater impact and reach a wider audience with your programs and services. This expanded scope enables you to engage with governmental institutions, other organizations, and stakeholders at a national level, fostering collaborations and partnerships that can amplify the effectiveness of your work.

Additionally, federal registration may facilitate your organization's participation in national-level initiatives, policy advocacy, and resource allocation processes. It opens doors to engaging with government agencies, policymakers, and decision-makers, allowing you to contribute to shaping policies and practices that directly impact the communities you serve.

Furthermore, federal registration provides your organization with a solid legal foundation and ensures compliance with national regulations. It strengthens your governance structures and supports the long-term sustainability and stability of your organization. This formal recognition also instills confidence in your stakeholders, including beneficiaries, donors, and partners, as they can have greater trust in your operations and accountability. Overall, the successful federal registration of your organization on 27 March 2022 marks an exciting milestone in your journey. It paves the way for expanded opportunities, increased impact, and enhanced partnerships at the national level. By operating within the legal framework and gaining recognition at the federal level, your organization is well-positioned to advance its mission and make a meaningful difference in the lives of the communities you serve.

2.8. Food Support to Orphans

On 3 April 2022, your organization provided food support to orphans in Dhagahbour city. This intervention aimed to address the immediate nutritional needs of vulnerable children, ensuring they have access to adequate and nutritious meals. By providing food support, your organization demonstrated its commitment to alleviating hunger and improving the well-being of orphans in the community.

2.9. Eid Clothes for Orphans

In collaboration with Somali Charity, your organization provided Eid clothes and shoes to 240 orphans in Jigjiga on 28 April 2022. This initiative aimed to bring joy and a sense of celebration to the lives of orphans during the festive occasion of Eid. By providing clothing and shoes, your organization helped create a more inclusive and enjoyable experience for the children, ensuring they could participate fully in the festivities.

Collaborating with Somali Charity highlights the significance of partnerships in extending the reach and impact of programs.



2.10 Strategic Planning Workshop

From 13 to 16 July, YOCO conducted a strategic planning workshop involving 16 staff members. This workshop served as a platform to envision and chart the future direction of Yatim Orphans organization. By engaging in strategic planning, this took a proactive approach to define our goals, objectives, and strategies for the next five years.

The development of a 5-year strategic plan is a vital step in ensuring organizational growth, sustainability, and effectiveness. It allows to align organization's activities and resources with mission and vision, enabling you to make informed decisions and prioritize initiatives that will have the greatest impact on serving orphans and the wider community.

By involving 16 staff members in the strategic planning process, it embraced a collaborative approach, harnessing the collective knowledge and expertise of team work. This inclusivity fosters ownership and commitment to the strategic plan, increasing the likelihood of successful implementation.

Yatim orphan's organization's efforts to provide food support, distribute Eid clothes, and engage in strategic planning demonstrate a commitment to addressing the immediate and long-term needs of orphans. By enhancing our programs, leveraging partnerships, and charting a clear strategic direction, its well-positioned to make a meaningful and sustainable difference in the lives of vulnerable children.

YOCO has been actively involved in various initiatives to support orphans, promote education, and enhance program evaluation. Here are the details of the activities you mentioned:

2.11. Sponsorship of Education

On 30 September 2022, YOCO sponsored the education of 15 students through two schools. This sponsorship program aimed to provide access to quality education for orphaned children, enabling them to develop their skills and knowledge for a brighter future. By investing in their

education, YOCO demonstrated its commitment to empowering orphans and breaking the cycle of poverty.

2.12. School Uniforms

On 25 September 2022, with the support of partners, YOCO provided uniforms to 100 orphaned children. This initiative aimed to address the basic needs of orphans and ensure their equal participation in educational activities. By providing school uniforms, YOCO helped create a sense of belonging and inclusivity among the orphaned children, enabling them to attend school with dignity.



2.13. Visiting OFOCH Charity

On 15 October 2022, YOCO visited OFOCH charity in Shinile to share experiences and learn from their practices. This visit provided an opportunity for knowledge exchange and collaboration between the two organizations. By sharing experiences, YOCO aimed to gain

insights and best practices from OFOCH charity, enhancing its own programs and approaches for supporting orphans.

2.14. Training on Program Evaluation

On 21 November 2022, YOCO received training from Hankaal Institute to strengthen its monitoring and evaluation (M&E) practices. This training aimed to enhance YOCO's capacity to assess the effectiveness and impact of its programs. By improving its M&E systems, YOCO can gather reliable data, measure outcomes, and make informed decisions to continuously improve its services for orphans.



These activities reflect YOCO's commitment to providing holistic support to orphans, including education sponsorship, addressing basic needs, learning from other organizations, and strengthening its monitoring and evaluation practices. By combining these efforts, YOCO is working towards creating sustainable and impactful programs that empower orphans and enhance their well-being.

3. CHALLENGES AND CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

Challenges are common in any project or initiative, and YOCO's efforts to raise awareness about female education were no exception. The challenges faced by YOCO included limited funding, logistical constraints, and resistance to change. However, YOCO took proactive steps

to address these challenges and ensure the smooth implementation of its activities. Here are some of the corrective actions taken:

3.1. Limited Funding

YOCO recognized that limited funding could hinder the scope and impact of their initiatives. To address this challenge, YOCO actively sought additional funding opportunities. This could involve researching and applying for grants, reaching out to potential donors or sponsors, and leveraging partnerships with other organizations or institutions that shared their goals. By diversifying their funding sources, YOCO aimed to secure the necessary resources to expand their programs and activities.



3.2. Logistical Constraints

Logistical constraints, such as transportation, venue availability, and equipment, can pose challenges to the smooth execution of projects. YOCO improved logistical planning to overcome these obstacles. This involved conducting thorough assessments of the logistical

requirements for each activity, anticipating potential issues, and implementing contingency plans. By meticulous planning and coordination, YOCO aimed to ensure that all necessary resources were in place and that activities could be carried out effectively and efficiently.

3.2. Resistance to Change

Resistance to change is not uncommon, especially when introducing new ideas or challenging existing beliefs and practices. YOCO encountered resistance to their efforts in promoting female education. To address this challenge, YOCO conducted targeted advocacy and communication campaigns. This included engaging with community leaders, influential figures, and key stakeholders to build awareness, address concerns, and highlight the benefits of girls' education. By fostering dialogue and emphasizing the importance of collective responsibility, YOCO aimed to overcome resistance and garner support for their cause.

2.4. Collaboration and Partnerships

To address various challenges, YOCO recognized the importance of collaboration and partnerships. YOCO actively sought to engage with government officials, interest groups, and other organizations working in the field of education. By fostering collaborative relationships, YOCO aimed to leverage collective expertise, resources, and networks. This collaboration could involve joint advocacy efforts, sharing of best practices, and pooling of resources to address common challenges more effectively.

2.5. Continuous Learning and Adaptation

YOCO embraced a culture of continuous learning and adaptation to address challenges and improve their initiatives. They actively sought feedback from stakeholders, conducted evaluations of their activities, and analyzed the outcomes and impacts of their projects. By reflecting on lessons learned and incorporating feedback, YOCO could refine their strategies, identify areas for improvement, and adapt their approaches to better address challenges in the future.

By actively seeking additional funding, improving logistical planning, conducting targeted advocacy, fostering collaboration, and embracing a culture of learning, YOCO demonstrated

their commitment to addressing challenges and ensuring the success of their initiatives in promoting female education. These corrective actions allowed YOCO to overcome obstacles and make progress towards their goals.

4. LESSONS LEARNED

4.1. Collaboration and Networking

YOCO recognized the importance of collaboration and networking with various stakeholders and organizations. By actively engaging with government officials, interest groups, community leaders, and other relevant organizations, YOCO was able to amplify their impact. Collaborative efforts allowed them to leverage collective expertise, resources, and networks, leading to more effective and sustainable outcomes.



4.2. Comprehensive Planning and Monitoring

YOCO understood the value of comprehensive planning and monitoring mechanisms, such as Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) plans. These plans helped YOCO in ensuring the smooth implementation of their projects and assessing their impact accurately. By setting clear objectives, developing detailed action plans, and regularly monitoring progress, YOCO could identify areas for improvement and make necessary adjustments to achieve their goals effectively.

4.3. Tailored Advocacy Efforts

YOCO discovered the power of tailored advocacy efforts in raising awareness and mobilizing support for their cause. They organized workshops, engaged with the media, and utilized various communication channels to deliver their messages effectively. By customizing their advocacy strategies to specific target audiences and communities, YOCO was able to effectively convey the importance of girls' education, address concerns, and foster positive change.

4.4. Flexibility and Adaptability

YOCO recognized the importance of being flexible and adaptable when faced with challenges and constraints during project implementation. They learned to anticipate and navigate obstacles, adjust their plans when necessary, and explore alternative approaches. By embracing flexibility, YOCO could respond effectively to changing circumstances and ensure the continued progress of their initiatives despite the challenges encountered.

These lessons learned by YOCO reflect their commitment to continuous improvement, learning from their experiences, and adapting their strategies to achieve their objectives in promoting female education. By applying these lessons, YOCO can enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of their future initiatives.

5. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the series of initiatives undertaken by YOCO highlight the organization's commitment to improving the lives of orphans and vulnerable communities in the Somali Region. The opening of the main office in Jigjiga provided a centralized hub for YOCO's operations, enhancing its service delivery, collaboration capabilities, and administrative processes. The partnership with Siman Charity for emergency drought response demonstrated YOCO's dedication to addressing immediate needs and building resilience in the face of crises.

The training on safeguarding and safe data collection practices emphasized YOCO's commitment to ethical conduct and the well-being of individuals involved in data collection activities. The comprehensive data collection effort in three zones enabled YOCO to tailor its programs and support to the specific needs of orphans, while the federal registration marked a significant milestone, expanding YOCO's reach, credibility, and opportunities for collaboration at the national level. Lastly, the provision of food support showcased YOCO's commitment to addressing the immediate nutritional needs of vulnerable children. Overall, YOCO's endeavors reflect its dedication to making a lasting and positive impact on the lives of orphans and communities in the Somali Region.

Additionally, YOCO's commitment to education and skill-building for orphans is commendable. By establishing vocational training programs and scholarship opportunities, YOCO is empowering young individuals to acquire valuable skills and pursue higher education. This investment in education not only equips orphans with practical knowledge but also opens up doors for better employment prospects, breaking the cycle of poverty and dependency. Through these educational initiatives, YOCO is fostering self-reliance and enabling orphans to become active contributors to their communities.

Furthermore, YOCO's emphasis on community engagement and collaboration is a key aspect of its approach. By partnering with local organizations, government bodies, and community leaders, YOCO ensures that its programs are tailored to the specific needs of the Somali Region. This collaborative approach enables YOCO to leverage local expertise, resources, and networks, resulting in more effective and sustainable interventions. By actively involving the community in decision-making processes and program implementation, YOCO builds trust, fosters ownership, and strengthens the overall impact of its initiatives.