

# 2020 Annual Report



## Centre for Human Rights and Rehabilitation

# Contents

• Acknowledgements	3
• Message from the Board Chairperson	5
• Message from the Executive Director	6
• Organisational Background	7
• Organisational Structure	8
• Our Approach	11
• Overview of 2020	12
• Projects	17
• Paralegal	25
• Our Partners	26
• Audited Financial Statements	27

# Acknowledgements

This annual report covers projects and activities implemented in 2020 by the Centre for Human Rights and Rehabilitation (CHRR) with financial and technical support from various donors and development partners.

CHRR remains grateful to the following staff members and interns for their contribution towards the production of this report:

- ⇒ **Thandizo Mphwiyo,**
- ⇒ **Hieronimo Mkhwimba,**
- ⇒ **Lydia Mkandawire,**
- ⇒ **Chris Munthali,**
- ⇒ **Nyatuwe Phiri,**
- ⇒ **Modester Ramundi,**
- ⇒ **Loveness Thole,**
- ⇒ **McPherson Issa,**
- ⇒ **Justine Phiri and**
- ⇒ **Wilfred Mwambira**

We also thank **Tamara Mhone-Mutyavaviri** and **Kennedy Rashid** for their enormous efforts towards the compiling and production of this report. Special thanks to the Executive Director, **Mr. Michael Kaiyatsa**, for his guidance in the compilation of this report.

CHRR is also extremely grateful to the following donors and development partners who provided funding to us in 2020:

- ⇒ **The Royal Norwegian Embassy**
- ⇒ **Rutgers**
- ⇒ **The UK Department for International Development (DFID)**
- ⇒ **Oxfam Malawi**

- ⇒ **The Steven Lewis Foundation**
- ⇒ **The AIDS and Rights Alliance for Southern Africa (ARASA)**
- ⇒ **The Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa (OSISA)**
- ⇒ **Africa Freedom of Information Centre (AFIC)**
- ⇒ **The Munakata Foundation**
- ⇒ **Both Ends**
- ⇒ **Bank Information Centre (BIC)**
- ⇒ **The American University Research Centre (ARC)**
- ⇒ **International Centre for Non-profit Law (ICNL)**
- ⇒ **The Collaboration on International ICT Policy in East and Southern Africa (CIPESA)**
- ⇒ **CIVICUS**

# Abbreviations

AC	Accountability Clubs	LGBTI	Lesbians Gay Bisexual Transgender and Intersexual
ADC	Area Development Committee	MCP	Malawi Congress Party
AEC	Area Executive Committees	MLS	Malawi Law Society
AIDS	Acquired immune Deficiency Syndrome	NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
ATI	Access to Information	PTA	Parents Teachers Association
CBEs	Community Based Educators	PET	Public Expenditure Tracking
CEDEP	Centre for Development of People	SMC	School Management Committee
CHRR	Centre for Human Rights and Rehabilitation	SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights
CIPESA	Collaboration on International ICT Policy in East and Southern Africa	T/A	Traditional Authority
CDA	Community Development Agreements	VDC	Village Development Committee
	CDF	VSL	Village Savings and Loans
	Constituency Development Fund		
CONGOMA	Council for Non-governmental Organisations in Malawi		
CRC	Community Rights Committee		
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations		
CVSU	Community Victim Support Unit		
DC	District Commissioner		
DEM	District Education Manager		
DEN	District Education Network		
DHO	District Health Officer		
DPP	Democratic Progressive Party		
FCDO	Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office		
GBV	Gender Based Violence		
GEA	Gender Equality Act		
GUSO	Get Up Speak Out		
GVH	Group Village Head		
HACs	Health Advisory Committees		
HIV	Human Immune-deficiency Virus		
LDF	Local Development Fund		

# Board Chairman's Message



The CHRR Annual report is a celebration of our achievements in the year 2020. In it, we share with you the steps we have undertaken to promote human rights and good governance in the country, the projects we have implemented, the partnerships we have created, the lives we have changed and the foundations we have built for ourselves to continue serving Malawians in the year to come.

I am deeply grateful to those who have supported us to reach this far. CHRR continues to progress because of the unwavering support we continue to receive from the communities we serve, public bodies, the media, fellow CSOs, international human rights networks and development partners.

I am also deeply thankful to our staff, interns and community volunteers for their enormous efforts, contributions and resilience, even when the odds appeared starkly against us. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, our team has registered numerous successes and achievements that are highlighted in this report. These achievements are a testament to the commitment and dedication of the CHRR management and staff as well as our team of district and community volunteers.

Looking ahead, I am hopeful that 2021 will be another successful year for CHRR as we continue our journey towards a vibrant Malawi culture, which embraces the values of democracy and human rights.

***Benson Nkhoma-Somba***

# Executive Director's Message



Last year was arguably one of the most difficult periods in Malawi and for our organisation as we faced unprecedented challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Through it all, CHRR has stuck to its core mission of promoting human rights and good governance. For that, we are extremely grateful to our Board of Trustees, our dedicated team of staff and volunteers, and to the unwavering support of our development partners.

Your support sustains our critical long-term work, such as our ground-breaking initiative to protect vulnerable groups, such as persons with albinism, LGBTI persons and people accused of witchcraft from attacks, and our long-term initiatives to increase access to and the uptake of sexual and reproductive health services in Machinga and Chikhwawa districts, among other districts.

Despite the challenges we faced, CHRR managed to break new ground in the year under review. Our pilot digital rights project helped shed light on emerging human rights challenges in the online sphere while our work on monitoring the implementation citizen engagement framework in World Bank funded projects helped to strengthen our social accountability capacity.

Last year, was also special in that CHRR challenged presidential candidates in the fresh presidential election and the new government to place rights and good governance at the top of its agenda. I am proud of everything we have achieved together in the past year, and it is my hope that our staff and volunteers, and all our partners will continue supporting us with the same generosity of spirit and audacious thinking.

Humbly,

***Michael Kaiyatsa***

# Organisational Background

The Centre for Human Rights and Rehabilitation (CHRR), is one of the leading human rights and good governance non-governmental institutions in Malawi, founded in February 1995 as a non-profit organization registered under the Trustees Incorporation Act of 1962. CHRR is also registered with the NGO Board and is a member of CONGOMA. CHRR was founded by former student exiles who returned home to the promises of a new democracy in 1994.

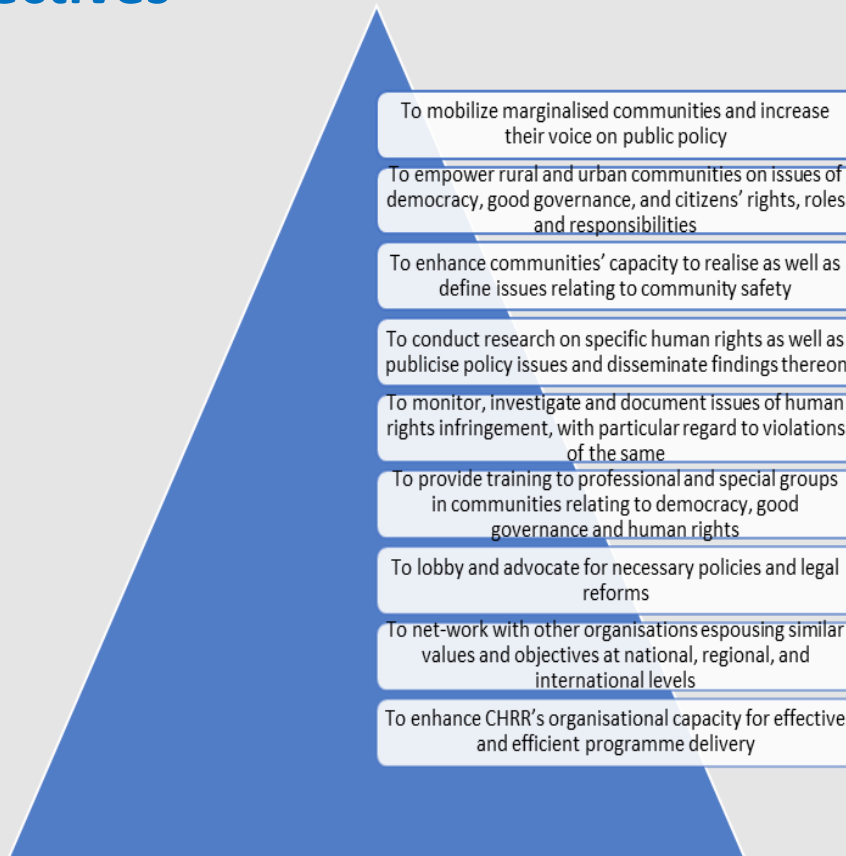


CHRR's vision is that of a vibrant Malawi culture which embraces the values of democracy and human rights. CHRR's mission is to contribute towards the protection, promotion and consolidation of good governance by empowering rural and urban communities in Malawi to be aware of and exercise their rights through research, advocacy and networking in order to realize human development.

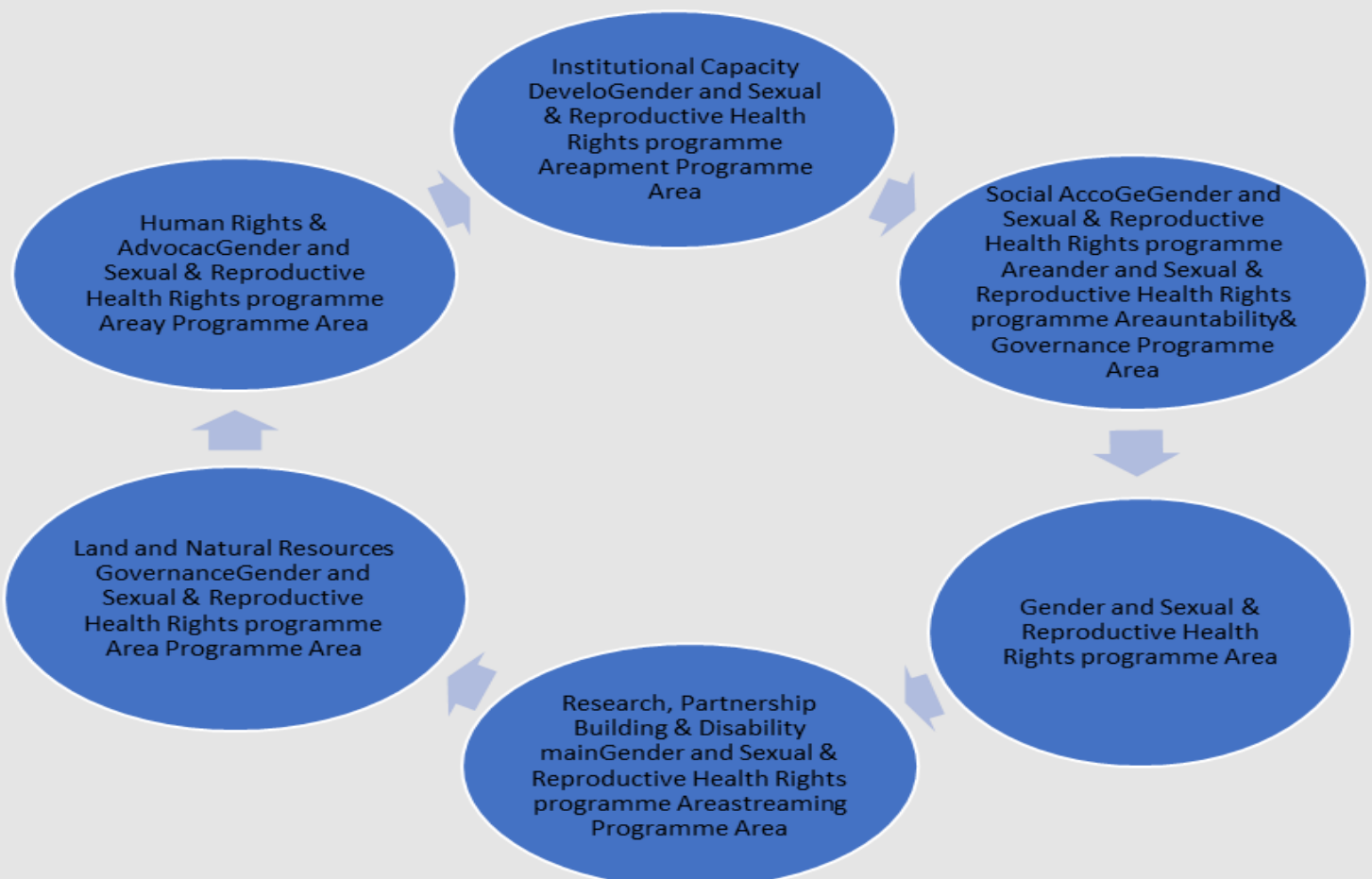
Since its inception, CHRR has been involved in a number of activities, which have included education and training, human rights monitoring, research and documentation and advocacy among others. The activities are aimed at community mobilization and empowerment so that people are able to defend their rights from perpetrators and claim their rights from duty bearers. In the area of research, CHRR has over the past years undertaken several research studies on a variety of subjects pertaining to democracy and human rights. Some of the findings from these research projects have shaped CHRR's advocacy and civic education programmes, policy and legislative framework for the betterment of Malawi's fragile democracy.



# Our Objectives



# Our Strategic Areas





# Our Board members

The organisational structure of CHRR comprises a 10-member Board of Trustees that is responsible for policy formulation. Its members are individuals with varied academic and professional backgrounds. Members serve three-year terms.

A few members from the out-going board are retained to ensure continuity. Below the Board is the Secretariat, which is responsible for day-to-day activities. The Executive Director heads the Secretariat and is accountable to the Board for over-sight responsibilities of the organisation's operations and management matters.

The Executive Director is an *ex officio* member and Secretary for the Board. Below the Secretariat are community-based volunteer district civic educators, recruited and located within their respective communities in each of CHRR's districts of operation.

The current Board of Trustees is composed of the following members:

1. ***Mr. Benson Nkhoma Somba- Board Chairperson***
2. ***Mrs. Susan Kaunda***
3. ***Dr. Paul Munyenembe***
4. ***Mrs. Auda Msiska***
5. ***Mr. Undule Mwakasungula***
6. ***Mrs. Maureen Kondowe***
7. ***Mr. Levi Msiska***



## Our Members of Staff

The Secretariat for CHRR was composed of the Executive Director, Technical and support staff that run the day to day activities for the organization.



The Members of the Secretariat included:

2020 Staff List	
Mr. Michael Kaiyatsa	Executive Director
Mrs. Thandizo Mphwiyo	Acting Programme's Manager
Mr. Hieronimo Mkhwimba	Finance and Administration Manager
Miss Lydia Mkandawire	Acting Civic Education Coordinator
Mr. Christopher Munthali	Finance and Administration Officer
Miss Modester Ramundi	Project Officer
Miss Nyatuwie Phiri	Project Officer
Mr. Charles Baduya	Project Officer
Mr. Wilfred Mwambira	Intern - Projects
Mr. Justine Kambalame	Intern –Resource Mobilisation
Ms. Aliko Sikwese	Intern –Finance and Administration
Miss Loveness Thole	Intern-Legal Department
Miss Naomi Phiri	Administration Officer
Mr. Washington Kabaukonde Manda	Accounts Assistant
Mr. Patrick Mwanyongo	Driver

## CHRR operating districts

CHRR operates in 15 districts, thus: Chitipa, Karonga and Nkhatabay in the North, Dedza, Lilongwe, Mchinji, Dowa, Kasungu and Salima in the Centre, Mangochi, Machinga, Blantyre, Chikwawa, Mulanje, and Zomba in the South.

# Our Approach



including the poor, vulnerable and marginalised groups) and duty bearers. This explains CHRR's commitment to pro-actively act against and address both the systemic and emerging injustices and inequalities in the society. Using the **Legal Empowerment of the Poor** (LEP) framework, CHRR managed to promote and protect human rights of Malawian citizens in the year under review. Our focus was on empowering right holders by focusing on four key approaches which are:

CHRR uses the Human Rights Based Approach in all its interventions and activities, thus it approaches its programming using the benchmarks of human rights as both contained in the constitution of Malawi and international human rights laws.

Our approach in the reporting year was unique in that it assisted the development of new programming pathway. Our programmes were tailor made as they were responding to current trends and issues. All our programmes followed a clear pathway in that each programme was designed in line with the CHRR Strategic Plan thematic areas as highlighted above.

Our approach responded to all emerging social, economic, political and environmental issues and was able to empower right holders on how they can promote and protect their rights in the year under review. CHRR believes that the purpose of a governance and human rights organization is to shrink the spaces of inequalities and make a difference in the lives of people as rights holders.

Since its establishment, the centrepiece of the CHRR's work remains grounded in the quest to reduce inequalities between right holders (thus

- Rights enhancement,
- Rights awareness,
- Rights enablement and
- Rights enforcement

Using these approaches, CHRR continued to empower right holders to define, claim and defend their human rights and build the capacities of duty bearers in promotion and protection of both human rights and democratic governance values and practices. Our role has been therefore to facilitate, stimulate, catalyze and support the promotion and protection of human rights and democratic governance in Malawi.

**‘WE REPRESENT  
THE VOICELESS’**

# OVERVIEW OF YEAR 2020

This year we were able to reach out to **15,000** beneficiaries through **8** projects, through national, district and community level interventions, and various media, publications, radios programmes and activities.

CHRR laid special emphasis on promotion and protection of human rights of the marginalized namely:

- **Persons with Albinism,**
- **LGBTI persons,**
- **Youths,**
- **Children and Women**

Through its different projects, focus was put on how the promotion and protection of specific human rights can facilitate the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and key aspects in the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy III (MGDSIII).

Within the focus on human rights, emphasis on empowerment of right holders was also made through the activities of capacity building workshops, community learning visits, duty bearer-right holder interface meetings, economic empowerment initiatives, visits to primary health centres, awareness generation on child rights and rights of people with special needs.

Paralegal clinics were provided freely to communities.

Activities of stakeholder meetings and trainings were organized to empower community-based educators and other community members to increase their participation in the projects.



# HUMAN RIGHTS AND GOVERNANCE TRENDS

The year 2020 was a memorable year in the history of Malawi and CHRR with multiple impact in various areas as per highlights below:

## *Social Political Issues*

The key Social political dynamics of May 2020 included the first ever presidential election rerun that was sanctioned by the courts. In 2020, the courts in Malawi nullified the 2019 General Elections and declared that there should be an electoral re-run of the Malawi's presidential elections that were held in May 2019. The courts found that Voting sheets from the 2019 elections were altered with tipp-ex, a correction fluid.



Malawians contested the results of the 2019 presidential election through peaceful demonstrations that were facilitated by human rights defenders. In February, 2020 opposition parties went to court to challenge the results, and for the first time since the transition to democracy in 1994 the courts granted an electoral re-run, which was held on June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020.

## *Macroeconomic Issues*

Growth in Malawi's economy decelerated in the first half of 2020 to 1.7% from 5.7 % in 2019. By the end of 2020, GDP growth fell to 0.6% in 2020 (IMF, April 2021). The slowdown in GDP growth was driven by the outbreak of COVID-19, which necessitated a partial lockdown of the economy, resulting in subdued economic activities—mainly in tourism, the accommodation and food subsectors, transportation, and agriculture.

Malawi in 2020 benefited from increased foreign aid and debt service suspension. In 2020, the Inflation remained stable at 8.6% in 2020. Poverty has been increasing in rural areas where 85% of the population lives, compared to urban areas where it fell significantly from 25% to 17%.

Malawi has made progress in building its human capital—the knowledge, skills and health that people accumulate over their lives—in recent years.



## ***Legal and Policy Issues***

In, 2020, Malawi operationalised the Access to Information Act of 2019 that was not being implemented due to lack of regulations. The Access to Information Law is considered as one of the most critical laws that can ensure good governance and promotion of Human rights.

In the same year, lockdown measures that were introduced to curb the spread of COVID-19 met with fierce public demonstrations and legal challenges.



In April, government announced a 21-day nationwide lockdown to take effect until 9 May 2020 to prevent, contain and manage further spread of COVID-19. In reaction to the lockdown, demonstrations were held across the country by informal traders, who feared that the lockdown would negatively affect their businesses. The Human Rights Defenders Coalition (HRDC) went to court to challenge the lockdown, claiming it would impact the poor communities in the absence of social security. The courts granted the injunction the same day to block the lockdown, pending a judicial review. In September, the High Court, sitting as a constitutional court, ruled that the lockdown was unconstitutional.

In 2020, the separation of powers principle as contained in the Constitution was challenged when the Executive arm of government tried to force the Chief Justice, who is the Head of the Judiciary, to go on force leave pending retirement. In June, the government had announced that Chief Justice Andrew Nyirenda had been placed on leave pending retirement with immediate effect.

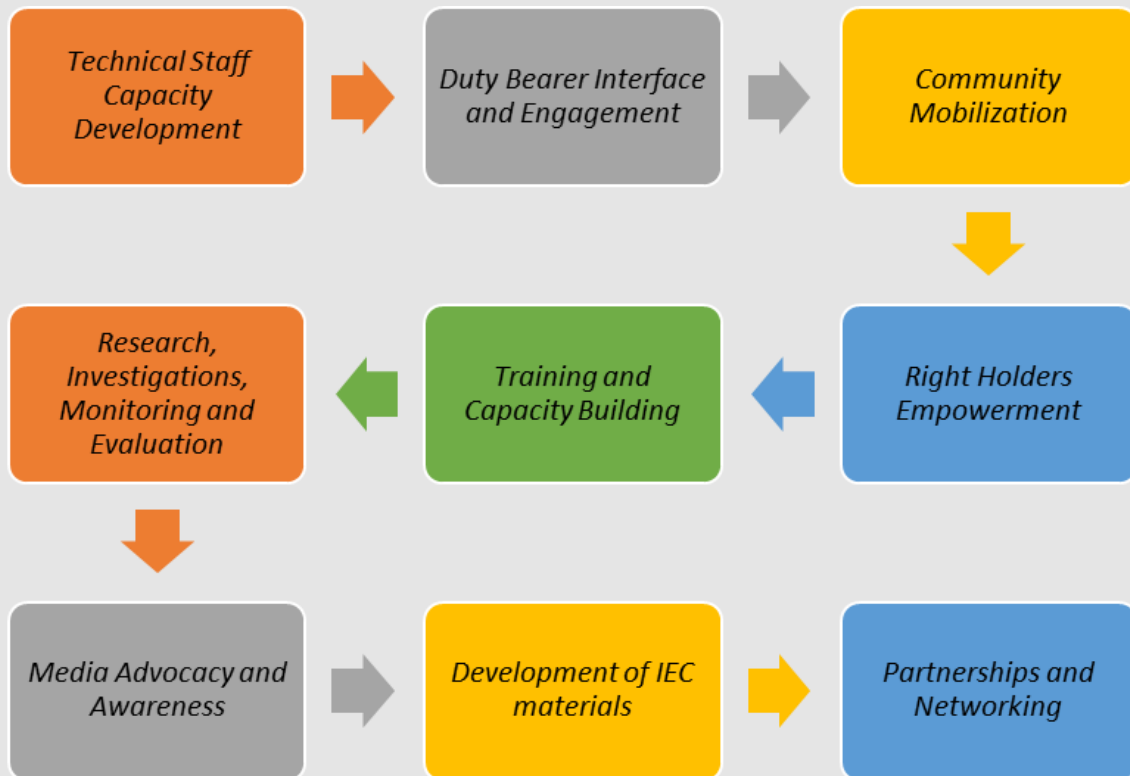
The notice read that Nyirenda had accumulated more leave days than the remainder of his working days until his retirement, due in December 2021. The move was seen by observers as a clear attempt to remove the Chief Justice days before the fresh presidential elections. Nyirenda was among the judges who in February had annulled the May 2019 Presidential elections. However, the high court granted an injunction preventing the move after the Malawi Human Rights Defenders Coalition (HRDC), the Association of Magistrates, and the Malawi Law Society lodged appeals against it.

## ***Natural Resource Management issues***

In 2020, Malawi started implementing the new taxation law under Carbon Tax. The Malawi Revenue Authority (MRA) announced on January 28, 2020 that it had collected 452 million kwachas in carbon tax from motorists, in the space of two months. Government stated that “Treasury has reported that in 2019/2020 fiscal year, the carbon tax generated K1.3 billion and the funds were used by the government.

In 2020, Malawi also experienced Natural disasters, which included the flush floods in the Northern Region that occurred after heavy rains that caused one death, displacement of 450 households and the destruction of crops in Karonga District. The floods were triggered by the overflowing of the North Rukuru River.

## Key strategies employed in 2020



## Institutional Capacity Development Programme

CHRR engaged in various capacity development activities in support of the effective delivery of other strategic programmes. Efforts to strengthen the institutional capacity included:

- Training of staff;
- Recruitment of technical and Support staff;
- Purchase of office equipment,
- Sending staff to capacity building trainings and, online workshops and courses.

At least 5 members of the secretariat participated in both physical and online capacity building training sessions on advocacy and specific programme management, thus ranging from digital rights, gender, economic rights, natural resource governance, public health, minority rights, local government administration and accountability, tax justice, climate justice, and democratic governance.

## Staff & Board development

In the year under review, CHRR managed to appoint a new 7 member board comprising 3 females and 4 males. CHRR also recruited 4 technical secretariat staff as project coordinators and project officers. The Board managed to establish functional structures at board level as follows:

1. **Legal and Disciplinary Committee** (emphasis on issues of policies, legal contracts, recruitment, and staff welfare)
2. **Finance and Management Committee** (emphasis on administration and finance Management)
3. **Media and Public Relations committee** (emphasis on Public Relations matters)
4. **Programmes Committee** (emphasis on programme implementation and management)

## **Resource Mobilization**

CHRR managed to mobilize resources from both traditional means (i.e. proposal writing) and through consultancies. In the year under review, CHRR implemented long, medium and short-term projects, which were supported by the following development partners:

- *The Royal Norwegian Embassy*
- *Rutgers*
- *The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) formerly DFID*
- *Oxfam Malawi*
- *The Steven Lewis Foundation of Canada*
- *The AIDS and Rights Alliance for Southern Africa (ARASA)*
- *The Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa (OSISA)*
- *Africa Freedom of Information Centre (AFIC)*
- *The Munakata Foundation*
- *Both Ends*
- *Bank Information Centre (BIC)*
- *The American University Research Centre (ARC)*
- *The Collaboration on International ICT Policy in East and Southern Africa (CIPESA)*
- *CIVICUS*

## **Consultancies**

CHRR also carried out 3 consultancies for the International Centre for Non-profit Law (ICNL), which involved carrying out a research on public participation in law and policymaking, development of a training manual for staff of regulatory bodies and organising and conducting a training workshop for staff of the NGO Board and other regulatory authorities.

## **Financial & administration systems, policies & procedures**

In 2020, CHRR managed to install Sage Accounting package and to train all accounting personnel on its use. CHRR also ensured strict implementation of its financial and administration procedures to strengthen project and financial management.

## **Improved, systematic communication & documentation capacity**

Externally, CHRR used the website, social media accounts and occasionally used print and electronic media to disseminate information. In 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic a lot of communication was done online (through virtual meeting apps such as Zoom) or via print media. CHRR also managed to host radio and TV programmes.



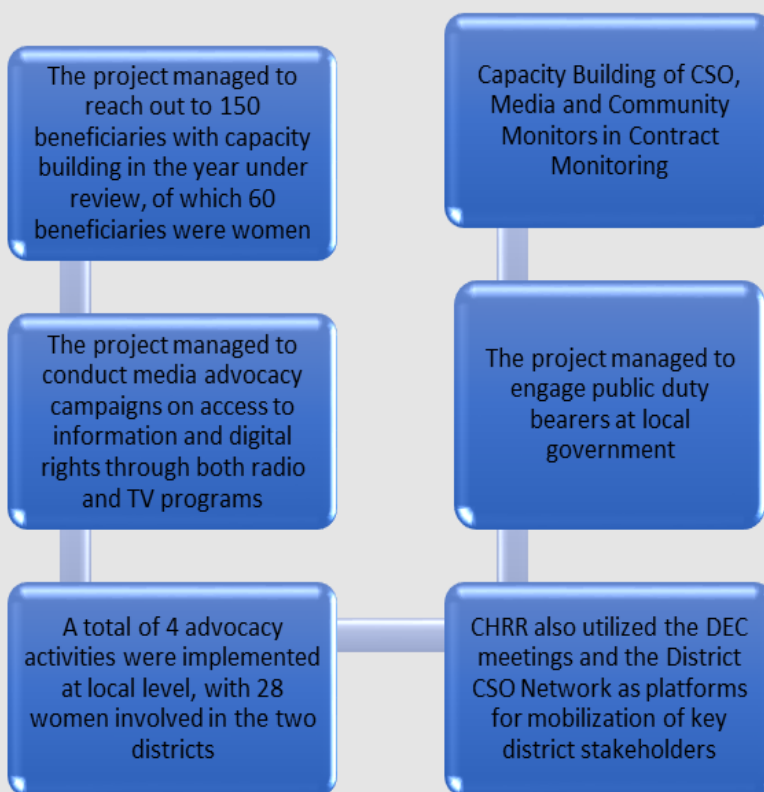
# OUR PROJECTS

## 1. OPEN CONTRACTING INITIATIVE: ENHANCING TRANSPARENCY IN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT IN MALAWI

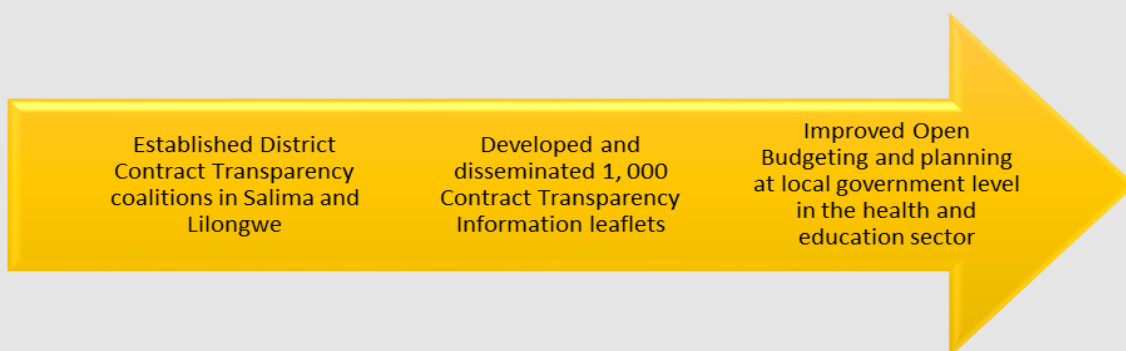
CHRR, in partnership with the Africa Freedom of Information Centre (AFIC) with financial support from William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, implemented a project titled: **From Disclosure to Impact: Deepening and Broadening Open Contracting in Africa.**

The project sought to improve health and education services delivery through promotion of proactive disclosure of public procurement information, enhanced public participation, efficiency, realization of value for money and competition in public contracting in Malawi. The project targeted two districts of Salima and Lilongwe. The project primary targets were the media, CSOs, members of the community, health and education public officials.

### Key Activities



### Key Impact



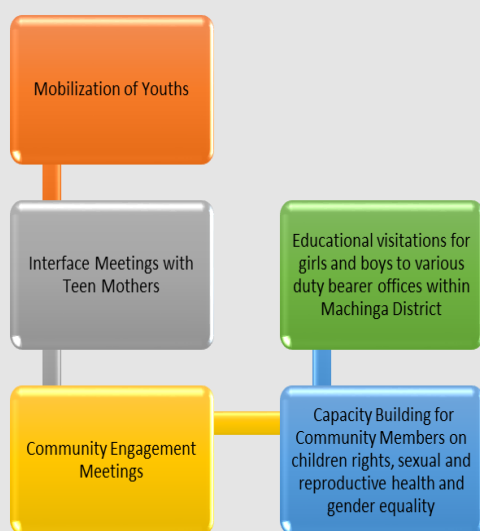
## 2. YES I DO

This project aimed to reduce child marriage and teenage pregnancies. The project was also implemented in six other countries namely Pakistan, Indonesia, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique and Zambia by other partners.

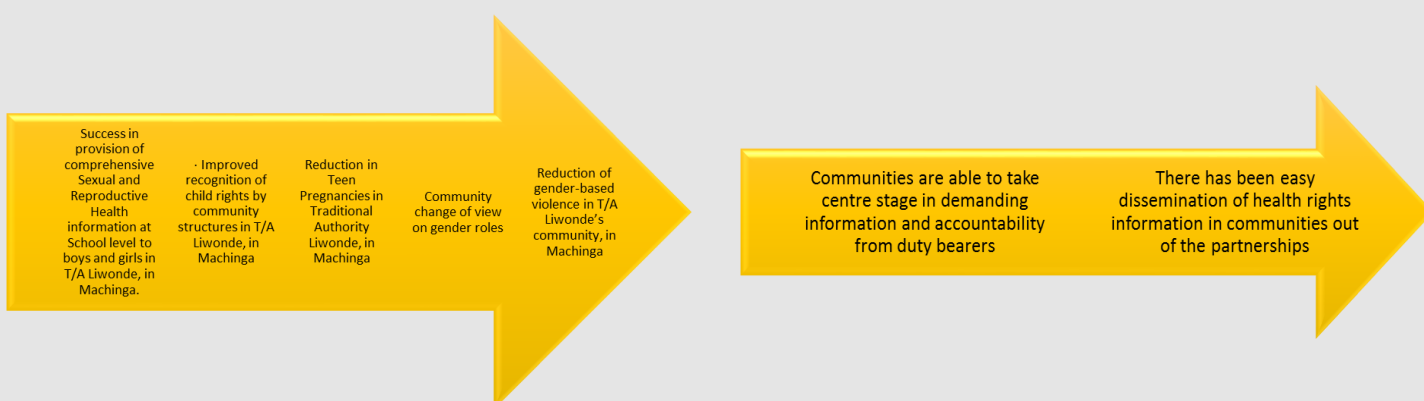
The project, which started in 2016, envisaged a world in which every girl can decide for herself if, when and whom she wants to marry and if, when and with whom she wants to have children. The project was funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and CHRR's funding came through Rutgers as its contractual partner.

In Malawi, CHRR worked with other local partners, namely Plan Malawi Family Planning Association of Malawi (FPAM) and Amref Health Africa. The project focused on addressing the underlying drivers of teenage pregnancies and early marriages, which include social norms, gender inequality and lack of opportunities of adolescent boys and girls.

### Key activities included:



### Project Impact

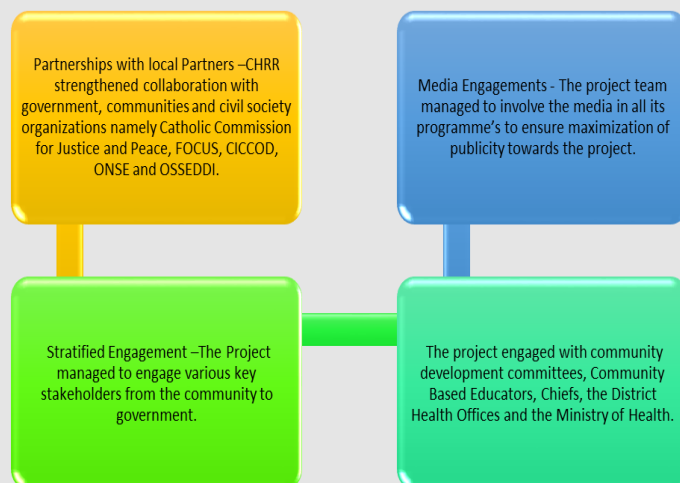


## 3. ENHANCEMENT OF CITIZEN'S CAPACITY TO DEMAND EQUITABLE HEALTH SERVICES

In 2020, CHRR with support from Oxfam Malawi continued implementing the Health Governance project entitled 'Enhancement of citizen's capacity to demand equitable health service's. The aim of the project was to mobilize communities and equip them with skills and knowledge to be able to demand equitable access to health in two districts of Karonga and Dowa.

The project, which has been implemented since 2016, was conceived out of a situation where vulnerable groups such as Persons Living with HIV and AIDS, youth and women were facing challenges in accessing care, treatment and psychosocial services. Thus, the project aim was to promote health rights for all especially vulnerable groups by building their capacity to demand access to equitable health services.

### Key Activities



## 4. SCALING UP THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF MINORITY RIGHTS IN MALAWI

CHRR and the Centre for the Development of People (CEDEP) in 2020 jointly continued implementing a project titled “Scaling up the promotion and protection of minority rights in Malawi” with support from the Royal Norwegian Embassy. The project’s aim was to promote and protect the rights of marginalised communities which includes people living with albinism, people accused of witchcraft (many of whom are elderly), people with special needs and the LGBTI community. The project was developed after noting the negativity that society has been putting on the LGBTI community, the attacks on the elderly, and the steady rise in attacks against people with albinism with reports indicating a steady increase in abductions, maiming, killings and exhumation of the remains of people with albinism in a number of districts in Malawi. Thus the project sought to protect the marginalized communities’ rights and dignity within their communities.

### Key interventions included:

- Community mobilisation and sensitisation
- Community dialogues
- Capacity strengthening
- Lobby and advocacy
- Networking and collaboration
- Media engagement

### Key achievements

- The interventions strengthened awareness on the rights of the three target groups through community sensitization meetings, community dialogue sessions, community radio programmes, and radio jingles. A total of 190, 000 beneficiaries were reached through the awareness activities. Community Based Educators (CBEs) were equipped with bicycles, megaphones and toolkits to assist with reaching out to the wider communities within their localities.
- The community dialogue forums provided a unique platform for community stakeholders to brainstorm and share their experiences and challenges, aimed at arriving at solutions to better enable them to conduct their important work of protecting the three vulnerable groups. A total of 3,120 people (1,872 male; 1, 248 female) participated in the sessions in all the districts. Participants in the dialogue sessions

included traditional leaders, Community Victim Support Units (CVSU) committee members, Religious Leaders and members of the Community Policing Forum (CPF).

- Through the weekly newspaper column, the project ensured that issues concerning the three target groups remained high on the national agenda. On the criminal justice sector, the project strengthened the capacity of magistrates, police investigators and prosecutors to handle cases related to the three target groups. The training strengthened their knowledge, skills and capacities to identify, investigate and prosecute cases related to the three target groups, especially in hard to reach areas. The work on persons with albinism had a positive impact by contributing to a reduced number of violations reported. In 2020, only 4 attacks were reported across the country.
- The project also supported advocacy efforts to ensure that LGBTQI issues featured highly in the recommendations made by UN member states to Malawi during the third cycle of Universal Periodic Review (UPR) held on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2020 at the United Nations in Geneva. During the review, at least four advance questions were made to Malawi relating to sexual orientation and gender identity and expression. The project has also contributed to a significant reduction in cases of attacks on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

### Other achievements include:

- Regional trainings for magistrates and police investigators The purpose of the training was to enhance the knowledge and skills of the magistrates when handling trials of offences concerning people with albinism, those concerning LGBTI persons and people accused of witchcraft and other abuses.
- Mobile legal clinics - The project supported sessions of mobile legal clinics focusing on witchcraft cases in rural communities. At least 63 people across the 20 Traditional Authorities were able to access justice through this initiative.

- **Media engagement:** -In view of the Covid-19 pandemic, the project prioritized radio and TV programme's on national and community radios. The programme's focused on issues to do with stigma, discrimination and violence against the project's target groups. A total of 36 programme's were produced and aired during this period on national as well as community radios including Zodiak Radio and TV. Community radio programmes were aired on Tuntufye Radio in Karonga, Chirundu FM in Nkhatabay, Bembeke FM in Dedza, Umoyo and Lalanguka FM in Mangochi, Mzati FM in Mulanje and Gaka FM in Chikwawa. The project produced and aired radio and TV jingles carrying various messages related to theme of this project to complement the radio programmes. In total, **120 jingles** were produced and aired during the period. These jingles were aired on MBC and ZBS radios, both of which have wider listenership.
- **Print Media** - 52 articles were published in the Minority Forum column, which appears in the Weekend Nation newspaper reaching an estimated 780, 000 people. e) **Online Advocacy** - The project managed to utilize the various online platforms to publicize the challenges that the target groups were facing. The platforms that were utilized included Twitter, Facebook and WhatsApp.
- **Lobbying and advocacy-** The project supported advocacy efforts to ensure that LGBTQI issues featured highly in the recommendations made by UN member

states to Malawi during the third cycle of Universal Periodic Review (UPR) held on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2020 at the United Nations in Geneva. Before the review, CHRR and CEDEP lobbied a number of UN member states, including the Kingdom of Norway, through virtual meetings and letters.

### **Project Impact**

- Community Members have started understanding the importance of diversity
- There is increased national interests in protection of minority communities.
- There is increase in publicity of human rights especially the rights of the targeted groups.
- Increased International level recommendation on the protection and promotion of minority rights.
- Increased interests by community members in the protection of the targeted groups.

**CASE STUDY 1:** In Village Headman Fosa under T/A Kachere in Dedza district, community policing acted on a tip from some community members collaborated with CBEs to save the lives of two old women and their children after a mob had plotted to kill them on allegations that they were practising witchcraft.

**CASE STUDY 2:** In T/A Mabuka in Mulanje, alert community members spotted two people in possession of suspected bones of deceased persons with albinism and alerted the local CPF, who in turn alerted the Police. The two were arrested near Mloza Border as they attempted to cross into Mozambique on a motorcycle.

**CASE STUDY 3:** In T/A Nkhumbira in Nkhatabay, 6 older persons who were about to be subjected to trial by ordeal by a witch-finder were saved after a local CBE alerted the CPF, who in turn alerted police. The witch-finder was later arrested by police. She was brought to trial, found guilty and ordered to pay a fine of K240, 000 by the Nkhatabay First Grade Magistrate's Court.

## 5. SUPPORT TOWARDS LGBTI COMMUNITY WITHIN AND AROUND DZALEKA REFUGEE CAMP

### Key Activities

- Mobilization of Key Stakeholder - A total of 29 LGBTIQ participants from the safe house, Dzaleka Refugee camp and surrounding communities respectively were mobilized and attended a Capacity Building workshop coordinated by CHRR. The workshop emphasis was on equipping the participants on how UNHCR operates and how the participants can promote and protect the rights of LGBTI persons within their communities.
- Support towards LGBTI refugees at risk of violence:-the project supported 17 LGBTIQ refugees and asylum seekers facing the risk of violence with safe house spaces provided by UNHCR. Through the project, the refugees and asylum seekers in the safe house received nutrition support as well as medical and psychosocial support.
- The project purchased 2 desktop computers as well as Wifi internet. This enabled the safe house occupants to have access to the internet for communication and learning purposes.

### Impact

- The surrounding community leaders learnt how to embrace diversity.
- LGBTI persons were equipped with skills and knowledge on how they can protect themselves.
- The participants learnt how UNHCR operations are carried out and how the LGBTIQ community can be protected.

## 6. PROMOTING RIGHTS OF WOMEN LIVING WITH HIV AND AIDS

CHRR continued implementing a project on the promotion of the rights of women living with HIV and AIDS with financial support from Stephen Lewis Foundation. The project was being implemented in Lilongwe Rural and in Salima districts. The projects aim was to achieve a reduction in practices which discriminate and violate the human rights of women living with HIV & AIDS in the targeted districts of Salima and Lilongwe.

### Key Activities

- Awareness Campaigns- The project managed to mobilize and sensitize community members on the rights of women, especially those with HIV and AIDS reaching out to 450 women within the targeted areas. The women were equipped with human rights skills and knowledge.
- Community Dialogue- The interface meetings main aim was to mobilize community leaders and women to discuss some of the major challenges that women with HIV and AIDS are facing reaching out to 1,045 participants of which 750 were women.
- Capacity Building - The project managed to capacitate 500 women with business and entrepreneurship skills and business management knowledge. Women were also equipped with better agriculture methods and nutrition practices that would support their sustainability throughout the year.

### Project Impacts

Women living with HIV and AID'S managed to establish Community Village Savings Banks.

Increase in the health of women that have HIV and AIDS

Increased productivity in the women that were targeted.



## 7. UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR)

CHRR in collaboration with CIVICUS were implementing a project on advocacy concerning Malawi's United Nations Periodic Reporting process. The project sought to ensure that Malawi adheres to the international reporting requirements that are set on the United Nations Protocols that Malawi is a party to.

### Key Activities

- Capacity Building - The project managed to conduct a UPR media reporting training where 16 journalists from the mainstream and social media, thus print and electronic, were trained on UPR standards.
- Awareness Campaigns- The project managed to conduct media awareness campaigns on the compliance of Malawi to various international protocols e.g. CEDAW.

### Impacts

- Government started engaging non state actors on the reporting process.
- Non State Actors especially Civil Society Organizations started demanding the domestication and compliance of various international instruments.
- Communities started demanding more capacity building initiatives on international instruments.

## 8. GET UP SPEAK OUT

The GUSO (Get Up Speak Out) project was implemented by CHRR under the Malawi Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights Alliance, a grouping of 6 local CSOs

comprising CHRR (, YONECO (Youth Net and Counseling), FPAM (Family Planning Association of Malawi), CAVWOC (Centre for Alternative for Women and Children), CYECE (Centre for Youth Empowerment and Civic Education) and COWLHA (Coalition of Women Living With HIV & AIDS).

The partners, with their different niches focused on improving the SRHR of all especially young people whose rights are often violated. The Alliance targeted

young people from T/As Mponda, Nankumba, Chimwala and Jalasi in Mangochi and T/As Lundu and Ngabu from Chikwawa.

CHRR focused on T/As Mponda in Mangochi and Ngabu in Chikwawa districts. The project targeted youth in prisons, young LGBTI, married adolescents, girls aged 10-24, young sex workers, teen mothers, young people in hard to reach areas and young people living with HIV (YPLWHIV).

### Key Activities

- Community Mobilization - The project managed to mobilize key stakeholders that impact the lives of youths and children, these include religious leaders, traditional leaders, education institutions, health centers and parents in communities in Mangochi, approximately 350 households were reached.
- Community engagement - The project managed to engage community leaders, institutions and parents in the targeted districts on Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR), youth-friendly health services (YFHS) and meaningful youth participation (MYP) to make them aware of the importance of young people accessing SRH services. Community Dialogue sessions were conducted to remove the myths and misconception on SRH and YFHS.
- Capacity Building - The project managed to conduct refresher sessions for peer educators, facilitators and volunteers on SRHR in both Mangochi District. The refreshers were done to hone the skills of the project stakeholders and maintain the standards of the project. The project also managed to train youth-friendly health service provision and supported facilities to renovate youth-friendly corners. Youths were also trained on meaningful youth participation, youth leadership and social accountability, and on organizing community-based activities such as youth forums, youth camps, and campaigns.
- Awareness Campaigns - The project managed to conduct awareness campaigns in the targeted district. The campaigns included advocacy on ARVs to be made available through youth-friendly corners in health centers; areas specifically targeted to young people's SRHR.
- Media Engagement - The project continued the media advocacy on Termination of Pregnancy Bill. The project engaged both print and electronic media to stimulate the debate on the bill.



### Impacts

- Young people living with HIV can now receive therapy in youth friendly corners
- Reduction in the number of teen pregnancies and early marriages
- Increased number of girls and boys that have gone back to school
- Young children have been rescued from early marriages
- There was increased interest in the Termination of Pregnancy Bill
- Contributed to a significant reduction in abuse, discrimination and violence on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

## 9. BOTH ENDS

CHRR and International Accountability Project (IAP) with support from Both Ends, were implementing a project in Salima based on the construction of the Salima Solar Project, the aim of the project was to assess the impact of the project on the community and empower the community to demand for their rights.

### Key Activities

- Community-led research - The project managed to utilize the community in using its own local knowledge in identifying key issues and impacts from the Solar Project, analyze the issues and propose solutions to the issues.
- Validation - The project in 2020 managed to validate the preliminary research findings and provided updates to the communities about the status of the project.
- Community Awareness - In 2020, the project managed to conduct workshops, with the assistance of the Gender Justice Unit, and Trust PSS to build community awareness in the communities around the solar plant site. The project also managed to conduct legal clinics on issues of gender-based violence and sexual exploitation that were reported.

### Impacts

- Communities are able to demand their rights from duty bearers
- Communities now can conduct basic assessment of the project using their knowledge and experience

- Communities are able to communicate the challenges and impacts to various duty bearers for solutions

## 10. PROMOTING FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION ONLINE IN MALAWI

CHRR with technical support from the Collaboration on International ICT Policy in East and Southern Africa (CIPESA) and financial support from the the African Digital Rights Fund (ADRF) implemented a 6-month project titled *Promoting freedom of expression online in Malawi*. The project's key achievements include:

- Establishment and launch of the Digital Rights Coalition (DRC) comprising 16 local CSOs. The Coalition, the first of its kind in Malawi, has created a vital space where Malawian digital rights activists can meet to share their experiences and challenges, plan together and speak with one voice in advocating for enhanced protection of online freedoms in the country.
- Through a 2-day meeting, the project supported the Coalition members to develop an advocacy strategy for promoting digital rights in Malawi.
- CHRR conducted a legal and policy analysis focusing on laws and policies regulating digital rights in Malawi. The analysis has strengthened awareness of current legal threats to internet freedom in Malawi and informed the Coalition's advocacy strategy.
- The project also conducted a TV and radio programme on Times Television (TTV) and Times Radio to raise public awareness of the legal threats identified. This helped to increase citizen demand for reforms and for affordable internet services.



## 11. DEFENDING THE CIVIC SPACE THROUGH ENHANCING PROTECTION OF HUMAN DEFENDERS IN MALAWI

In collaboration with the Human Rights Defenders Coalition (HRDC), CHRR implemented a one-year project titled *Defending the Civic Space through Enhancing Protection of Human Defenders in Malawi*.

This project sought to build the capacity of the HRDC and its membership to better navigate the security threats that comes with the work, to be well prepared to face any legal challenges that may arise during the course of the work, and to build the capacity of the citizenry for them to effectively engage in the political rights discourse.

**In 2020 a number of interventions were implemented including :**

- Security and safety training for human rights defenders,
- Citizen mobilization,
- Litigation against draconian laws,
- Legal support to victim of arbitrary arrests during the demonstrations,
- Fresh presidential elections monitoring,
- Media engagement and
- Development of Human Rights Defenders Protection bill.

### **Key achievements**

- Through this project, the HRDC has helped create a formidable active citizenry in Malawi to ensure greater accountability for those in power in relation to their performance and promises.
- On its own initiative, the HRDC organized a series of citi-

zen rallies and mass demonstrations across the country, which were highly patronized and extensively covered by the media. The demonstrations reflected widespread dissatisfaction with the way in which the elections were conducted.

- Crucially for this project, democratic reforms, including the electoral reform bills, have been brought back on the national agenda and adopted by the Parliament. On February 24, the Malawi Parliament passed an amendment to the Parliamentary and Presidential Elections Act, which includes provision for holding of run-off presidential election if no candidate in presidential elections gets half or more of the valid votes. The house also amended the Electoral Commission Act to guide the appointment of MEC chairperson. Subsequently, Malawi went to the polls again in June 2020 to elect a new presidency that saw the ushering on of President Lazarus Chakwera and Saulos Chilima as the Vice president. The fresh presidential elections were free, fair and credible.
- The project has further enabled the HRDC to mount a strong legal challenge on the issue of liability. Using a vague provision in the Police Act, the government has dragged the HRDC to court to force it to pay costs of damages that occurred during the post-election demonstrations. During the period under review, the court case was in progress.

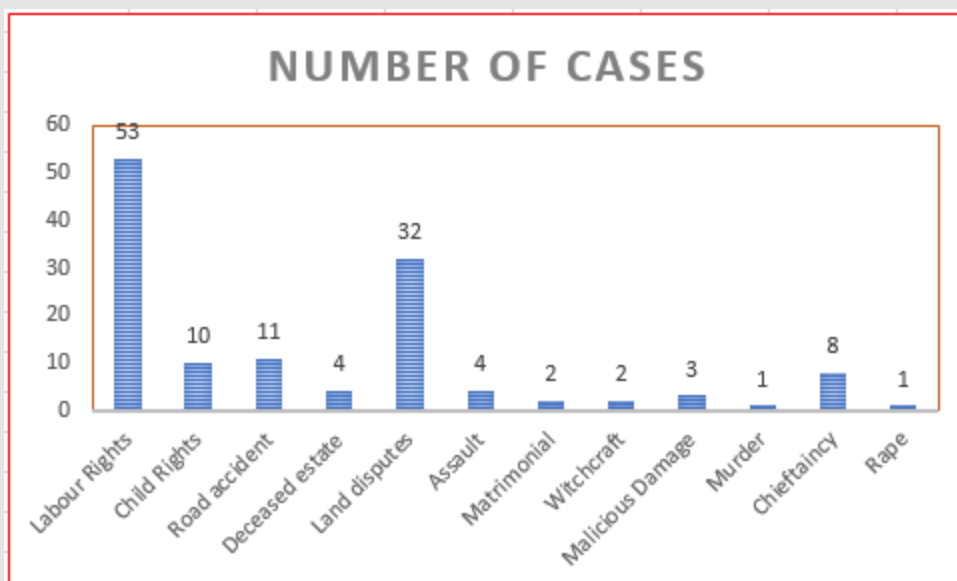




## 2020 PARALEGAL REPORT

In 2020, CHRR continued offering Paralegal Services including alternative dispute resolution, referral of cases and attending court hearings on human rights issues. In 2020 the legal department recorded received **131** cases, of which **45** had been resolved. Below is a summary of the cases:

NO.	Nature of case	In Progress	Referred Cases	Advice Given	Case Closed	No. of Cases Re-ceived
1	Labour Rights	20	10	7	16	53
2	Child Rights	0	7	2	1	10
3	Road accident	7	2	1	1	11
4	Deceased estate	0	4	0	0	4
6	Land disputes	12	8	1	7	32
7	Assault	3	0	1	0	4
8	Matrimonial	0	1	1	0	2
9	Witchcraft	2	0	0	0	2
10	Malicious Damage	0	3	0	0	3
11	Murder	0	1	0	0	1
12	Chieftaincy	4	1	2	1	8
13	Rape	1	0	0	0	1
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>49</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>131</b>

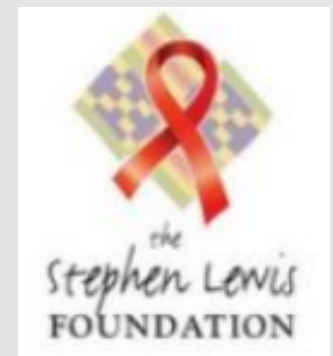


# THANK YOU PARTNERS



MUNAKATA  
FOUNDATION

Putting the last first.



# AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

- 1. Auditors Report**
- 2. Consolidated Balance Sheet**
- 3. Consolidated Income and Expenditure Statement**
- 4. Consolidated Cashflow Statement**