



YOUNG URBAN WOMEN + VALUING WOMEN'S WORK

MALAWI



ABOUT THE YOUNG

WOMEN'S URBAN MOVEMENT OF MALAWI

ActionAid's Young Urban Women's (YUW) Programme in Malawi seeks to invigorate the voice and agency of young women to effectively influence gender responsive public service delivery through improving macro-economic policy making.

Thus, using an intersectional feminist approach, the project places a commitment to building the active agency of **young women** at the center of advocacy for improved macro-level economic policies.

This lays the foundation for addressing young women's access to public services including education, health, social protection, decent work, and sexual and reproductive services simultaneously in three key ways: empowerment, campaigning and solidarity



Summary of our work in 2021

- **Capacity building:** ActionAid Malawi (AAM) has helped establish a National Feminist Macro-Economic Academy, through which it is building young women's knowledge to raise awareness on links between their rights and neoliberal macro-economic policies, including access to gender-responsive public services, decent work, and SRHR.
- **Movement building and mobilization:** AAM has supported to scale-up collective power of young women and their allies to challenge and to disrupt the coercive power of political and corporate elites, targeting both the government and IFIs, such as the IMF. This includes the use of young creatives to mobilize public support.
- **Advocacy and campaigns:** Young women-led advocacy sessions and high-level convenings to resist economic injustice, exposing challenges and demanding accountability. This also includes organizing high-level interface session with corporate and political leaders.
- **Evidence building:** AAM participated in joint several activities on research to support young women's advocacy challenging their government's pursuit of IMF-related austerity e.g. The Public vs Austerity: Why Public Wage Bill Restraints Must End.

FEMINIST MACROECONOMICS ACADEMY



FEMINIST MACRO-ECONOMICS ACADEMY MALAWI

The topic on neoliberalism and the role of the state in public service delivery really provoked me and the beliefs I held about privatization and creating an "attractive" environment for foreign direct investment. It made me want to engage with and question the trade-offs we are making for the sake of development. I have started to think about what kinds of policies I see government agreeing to implement that are attached to loan agreements

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GLORIA DZANJALIMODZI



FEMINIST MACRO-ECONOMICS ACADEMY MALAWI

For the most part it's been a bowl of thought-provoking discussions and anyone that knows me, knows I thrive in such conversations. From the course, I'm learning how things that are seemingly unconnected, actually are. In most circles we talk about economics, theories and policies and their impacts on poverty reduction for example, but tend to overlook their gendered impacts or even how these policies themselves are gendered. I am becoming more aware of how important it is to consider gender issues in economics and policy analysis. That is to say, it is imperative that we look at economics with a critical lens which reveals the subtle or not so subtle biases in economic methods and models that subjugate women

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DAISY TADALA MPANDO



#ART4HER - Embracing Transformative feminist Leadership and Young Creatives for Advocacy



Economic justice campaign at various levels





What we want to do more in 2022: *Decolonization of the Malawian's Economic Framework*

- **Challenging power of political elites:** YUW+VWW further places emphasis on the need to hold the Government accountable and interrogate the history of the Malawian Economic Framework, with a focus on Malawi's migration from a Development State (Command Economy) to a Neoliberal Economy
- **Resisting Corporate Power:** YUW Malawi is further demanding action to address the existing state capture by corporates, Western governments, International Financial Institutions such as the IMF and the World Bank; and internally by politicians
- **Legal empowerment and strategic litigation:** Moving forward, the project will strengthen actions on access to justice using strategic public interest litigation approach to challenge cases of human rights violations triggered by actions of political and corporate elites.
- **Strengthening parliamentary oversight function:** The parliamentary oversight function is one of the cornerstones of democracy. Oversight is a means for holding the executive branch accountable for its actions and for ensuring that it implements policies in accordance with the laws to safeguard rights of citizens.
- **Scrutiny:** Follow closely Malawi's dealings with IFIs including through scrutiny on staff reports, letters of intent, etc. with support from partners like FEAM, FEMNET, intellectual advocates and influencers, etc. for impactful campaigns.

