



Coalition for Women Human Rights Defenders - Tanzania



Bi-Annual Report
January – June
2022

Tanzania, in which, all women and girls are free from all sorts of human rights abuses

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1.0 Organizational Background

Coalition for Women Human Rights Defenders Tanzania (CWHRDs TZ) is “an affiliation of women who decided to come together to defend WHRDs who promote and protect human rights in Tanzania.” CWHRDs- TZ is a Non-Governmental Organization registered under the NGOs Act 2002 in 2019 and is based in Dar es Salaam in Tanzania.

The Coalition has its background from a group of seven young women human rights activists and feminists who founded the organization after they have witnessed plight of violence and threats of women’s human rights defenders. Despite championing rights, the existing country legislations do not recognize their roles, although international human rights instruments promote and protect them. The Coalition of WHRDs TZ forms a large basis for advocacy and lobbying work conducted by WHRDs across the country. The type of activities undertaken by the member organizations and individuals range from capacity building to service delivery, with particular focus on defending the rights of the deprived and marginalized segments of the society.

1.1 Vision

Tanzania, in which, all women and girls are free from all sorts of human rights abuses

1.2 Mission

To empower, protect and strengthen a vibrant movement of WHRDs through evidence-based advocacy, capacity building of member organizations and providing protection support for WHRDs.

1.3 Objectives

- i. Promote collaboration and coordination among human rights and women's rights organizations at the national level to strengthen responses concerning safety and wellbeing of WHRDs of Tanzania.
- ii. Build capacities of WHRDs members of the coalition through other national women’s movements, women’s rights organizations and networks.
- iii. To support national organizations of women’s human rights and individuals who works in defending human rights of women in the country in promoting and strengthening collective action for protection, establishment solidarity and protection networks, the promotion of self-care and advocacy and mobilization for the safety of women human rights defenders.
- iv. Facilitate the visibility and recognition of women human rights defenders in Tanzania and document their struggles, researching, producing and disseminating information, success and challenges.

- v. To promote and enhance collaboration with Government, Development Partners and other stakeholders to ensure women's rights are protected, respected and promoted.

2.0 Description of the Activities Implemented with its Outcomes

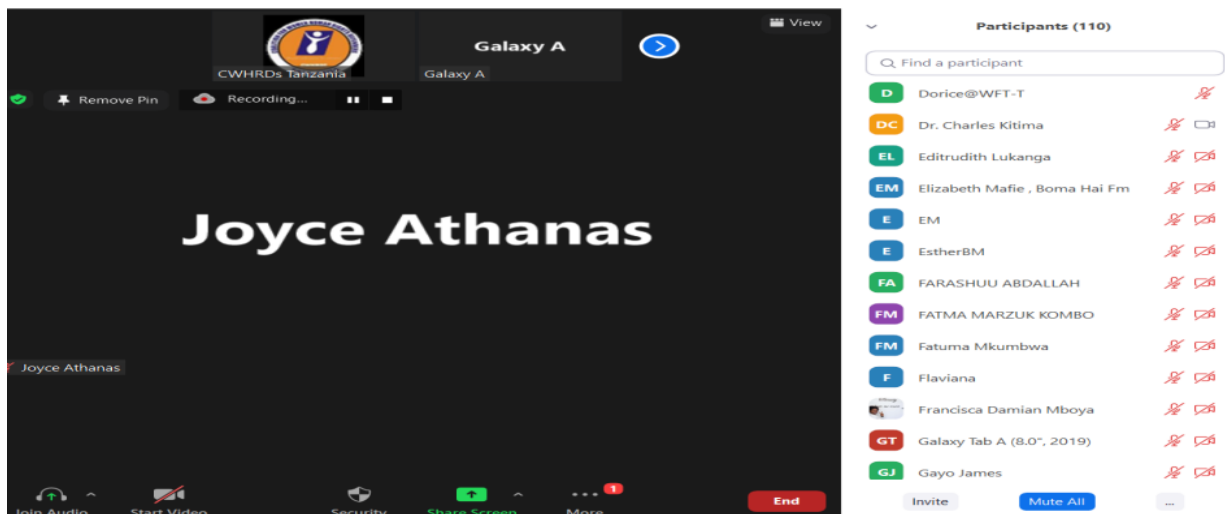
2.1 Outcome # 1: Evidence Based Advocacy

Objective: Facilitate the visibility and recognition of women human rights defenders in Tanzania and document their struggles, researching, producing and disseminating information, strategies success and challenges.

The implemented activities under this objective were: -

2.1.1 Virtual National Dialogue on Emerged Brutal Killings of Women and Girls

On February 11, 2022, the Coalition for Women's Human Rights Defenders (CWHRDs-Tz) conducted a one-day virtual dialogue to discuss on women's rights, GBV as well as the emerged brutal killings in Tanzania. The activity was a result of the increased cases of GBV and brutal killings most of victims being women. The aim of the dialogue was to find out possible causes of brutal killings in the community, assess the status of ongoing interventions to prevent it as well as recommend on rigorous measures to be taken to curb the vice. The dialogue brought together 149 people comprising of coalition members, other human rights defenders in the United Republic of Tanzania, Data Driven Working Members, media stakeholders, Muslim and Christian clerics, Development partners as well as Human rights activists in the country.



Screenshot from zoom application during the national dialogue of brutal killings of women and girls

The participants in the dialogue recommended several ways to end the problem including learning best practices from other countries to embrace culture of equality and stop culture of violence. In addition, the dialogue recommended for CSOs, media and all stakeholders to come with joint efforts and continue with awareness creation to protect the right to life particularly of women and girl's rights. Other recommendation called on religious leaders and community to speak out against violence in and outside the worship houses and marriage events. They also recommended review and amendment of the laws and customs that perpetuate GBV such as the Marriage Act of 1971 as well as focusing in improving people's mental health. The dialogue participant also recommended for stakeholders to come out with a joint strategy to make GBV a national agenda as well as changing people's attitude and behaviors' of seeing GBV as the family and private issue, something which is a stumbling block for early reporting of signs of violence.

On its part, the Coalition called on active duty bearers to take actions against perpetrators of brutal killings and GBV, increase protection of girls and women rights as well as to sustain peace within the country.

2.1.2 Dialogue of Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights

The Coalition for Women Human Rights Defenders Tanzania conducted the dialogue discussion on Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights to find out the understanding of the availability of post-abortion care services to women and girls in the country.



Participants of the discussion dialogue on SRHR and available services of post abortion care for women and girls

This activity was done in collaboration with the coalition member Young and Alive Initiative (YAI). The Dialogue aimed at increasing understanding and awareness to WHRDs of Tanzania on sexual reproductive health and rights (SRHR) by discussing how unsafe abortion and lack of post-abortion care services affect the reproductive health of women and girls as well as recommend the strategies to solve the problem.

The strategies recommended include making information on Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights including post abortion care affordable, available and accessible. Other recommendations focus on expansion of the quality post-abortion care services, building community's capacity to increase their understanding that Sexual Reproductive Health is a human right, improve health provider's ability to offer abortion services within the current legal context and increasing access and utilization of family planning methods.

2.1.3 International Women's Day Commemoration Dialogue on the Efforts of WHRDs to Combat Climate Change



A group photo of participants of dialogue on climate change impact and adaptation during the commemoration of International Women's Day 2022

The Coalition for Women Human Rights Defenders Tanzania (CWHRDs-Tz) in collaboration with its member Women in Action Towards Economic Development (WATED) conducted

a dialogue on the Efforts of WHRDs to Combat Climate Change impacts to women and girls during the commemoration of International Women’s Day March 2022 at Handeni District in Tanga region.

The dialogue coincided with the theme for the year 2022 International Women’s Day *“Gender Equality Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow”*. In total 43 participants (35 women and 18 men) from WHRDs, CSOs, LGAs and media attended the event. Among the attended, 25 were youth (21 women and 4 men)

The dialogue was intended to discuss the impacts of climate change to the marginalized group especially women and girls. The event also recognized the efforts of women and girls (WHRDs) of climate change adaptation, mitigation and response for sustainable development.



Ms Rose Ugulumu (CWHRDs Board Member) makes presentation during the climate change impacts and adaptation dialogue in HandeniTanga

During the dialogue, participants got a chance to watch documentary video recorded from Mazingara ward, Handeni District explaining on the impacts of climate change to women and girls. The impacts including: - increased risk of violence against women and girls and increased risk of child marriage the situation pushing women to become more economically dependent on men. It was also revealed that girls are more likely to miss classes or drop out of school due to lack of water for sanitation and increased engagement in the domestic roles mainly of fetching water and collecting firewood. Climate change also increased risk of maternal mortality rate.

It was revealed that, despite women being disproportionately affected by climate change, they play a crucial role in climate change adaptation and mitigation. Women have the knowledge and understanding of what is needed to adapt to changing environmental conditions and to come up with practical solutions. But gender inequality (restricted land rights, lack of access to financial resources, training and technology and limited access to political decision-making spheres) often prevent them from playing a full role in tackling climate change and other environmental challenges.

2.1.4 Campaign against Online Gender Based Violence for WHRDs and Women



One of the posters carrying different messages against online gender based violence

On March 22, 2022 Coalition launched the second campaign against online GBV themed “*NasimamaDhidiyaUkatiliwaKijinsiaMitandaoni*” (*I stand against online based GBV*). During the campaign, social media posters with different messages of online Gender Based Violence (GBV) were posted based on femicide, intimate partners’ violence and sexual harassment aimed at protecting the rights of women and girls including WHRDs and women in leadership against online gender based violence.

2.1.5 Media Advocacy, Publicity and Visibility

During this reporting period, Coalition managed to increase advocacy and visibility through mainstream and social media.

In 11th May 2022, the Coalition issued statements condemning acts of violence against women in political parties. It has condemned the act of leadership of NCCR Mageuzi to force and threatening her general secretary Ms.Martha R.Chiomba to resign by said she does not have qualification to serve the party. Following the situation, CWHRDs-Tz issued a statement through social media to call political parties to protect and respect the rights of political women and girls and requesting the registrar of Political parties to ensure all political parties should be governed by the Constitution and create a protective environment for women in politics.

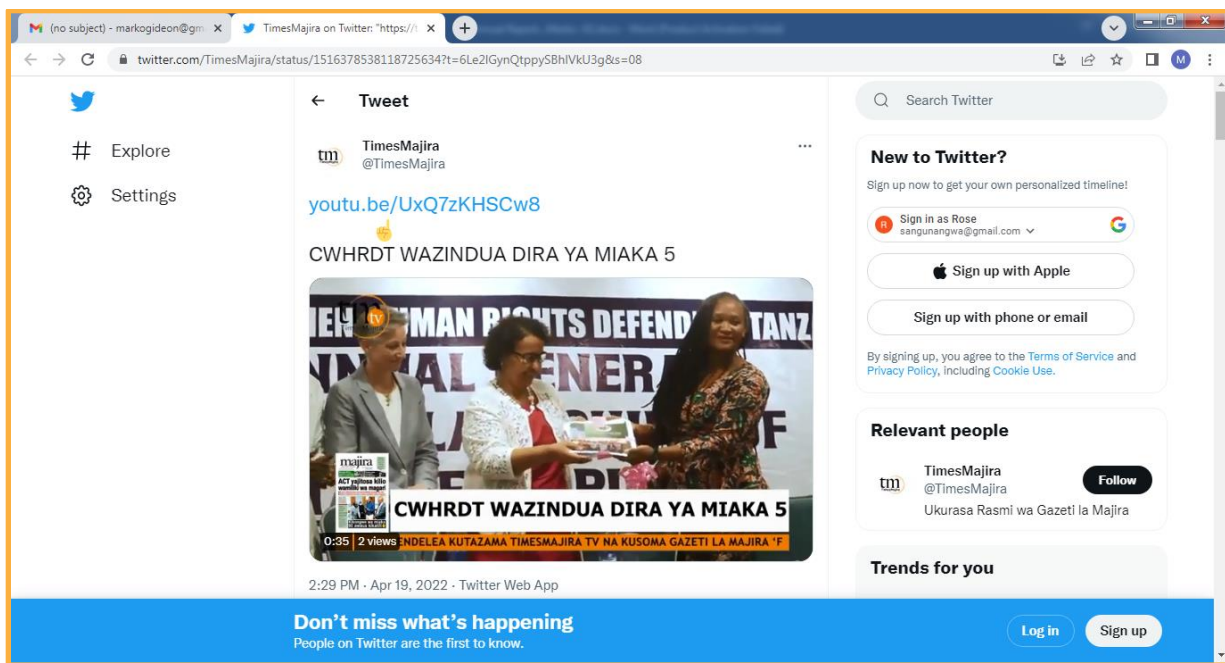


CWHRDs Tz National Coordinator, Hilda Dadu speaks during the issuing of press statement to condemn brutal killing of women and girls mostly by intimate partners

On May, 2022 the Coalition issued another statement to call for action on the emerging brutal killings of women and girls caused by some people who decided to take the law into their hands in the name of jealousy. The statement aimed to ask the Government to take action to stop such behavior, police and judiciary to take legal action against suspects as well as asking community to report earlier indicators of GBV for protecting the rights of women and girls.

The coalition submitted the recommendations to the National political committee on 19th May, 2022. The recommendations based on enhancing the interest of women and girls who are present and intend to inter in politics and condemn acts of discrimination and gender violence that occur within political parties during political processes. This is in line with the coalition goal of promoting and creating safe enabling environment for defending the rights of women, girls and special groups.

The Coalition events and activities also attracted publicity through mainstream and social media. See the pictures below.



link <https://twitter.com/TimesMajira/status/1516378538118725634?t=6Le2lGynQtpySBhVkuU3g&ts=08>

The screenshot shows a web browser displaying a news article on the IPPmedia website. The article is dated Thursday, July 14, 2022, and is by Beatrice Philemon. The headline reads: "Coalition launches 5-yr strategic plan to protect women and girls". The sub-headline states: "THE Coalition for Women Human Rights Defenders Tanzania (CWHRDs) has launched a five-year strategic plan to protect women and girls from abuse." The article includes a photo of a woman wearing a face mask and a blue surgical cap. There are also advertisements for Qatar Airways and a 'Book Now' button.

link <https://www.ippmedia.com/en/news/coalition-launches-5-yr-strategic-plan-protect-women-and-girls>

Let's do something to stop spiraling killings of women

The Guardian 9 June 2020

By Beatrice Philemon

THE dramatic increase in incidents of gender killings in Tanzania has taken a new dimension which requires immediate action to reverse the situation and make our country safe for all.

As a result, there have been a number of incidents involving killings of intimate partners, married women, female parents and elderly for jealousy or materialism.

A report by an advocate of the High Court of Tanzania and the Coalition for Women Human Rights Defender in Tanzania (CWHRD's) Coordinator, Hilda Dadu asks questions as to what is causing the fastest growing side in our country.

The situation indicates the violation of human rights of innocent women and extreme violence against women, lack of safety, peace and security for vulnerable women.

Our country is among those that have ratified various international conventions to protect the dignity of the individual and to protect the right to life. Examples of some of these treaties include: International Convention on Human Rights (1948), Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Violence Against Women (1979) and many more to protect women and girls against violence and bullying.

Our government has gone a step further by adopting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) and incorporating these values into the constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania of 1977.

We have the **PERVA** (PEACE, EQUITY, RESPECT AND JUSTICE) and multi-country policies that prioritize protection and security for women and girls as well as other groups against gender-based violence. The government has done well by setting up gender desks in various government departments to deal with issues of gender-based violence including police stations and departments of government institutions within ministries.

Also commendable is putting in place the National Plan of Action to Reduce Violence against Women and Children (NVAWC) which ends this year in 2022.

Despite all this, the issue of killings of women by their partners or their biological children is growing and taking on a whole new dimension.

Since January this year, media outlets have been reporting incidents of gender killings and gender based violence from various regions in our country with some leading to deaths and permanent disabilities for women.

Some have been linked to superstitious beliefs, materialistic desires, carnal desires, jealousy, hate, stress as well as all aspects of patriarchy that have also been perpetuated by men as well as women.

For a long time, women have lost their lives and some lost their body parts simply because they are women. It should be noted that the right to life is a fundamental constitutional right that every human being has.

In Tanzania, this right is protected by the constitution under Article 14. This violating this right is a violation of the constitution as well as various international treaties which Tanzania has ratified.

The various international and regional human rights treaties which Tanzania has ratified place significant emphasis on the right to life, such as the 1948 Declaration of Human Rights and the 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Among major factors in the assassination of partners has been identified as jealousy or hate of love. The people who commit this atrocity against women are their spouses or partners.

In 2020, according to a report released by the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) in 2020, there were 23 homicides compared to 12 incidents in 2019. The number attacks in the one month of January 2022 alone could be higher than those in the 2019 and 2020 reports.

These incidents violate the right to life of women. Regions highlighted previously as hotspots for these killings include Mara, Mwanza, Shinyanga, Simiyu, Arusha and Rukwa. But now even the regions that were considered safe like Dar es Salaam, Dodoma and Ruvuma are reporting their own cases.

These killings are violence against women and they violate their freedom from violence, as well as the right to life which is protected in accordance with the constitution.

What is the situation in the community about these gender killings by intimate partners or relatives? Society has found itself in a time of crisis, with many wondering if anyone else has been attacked today and who else will follow.

Extreme anxiety could be spreading amongst women who have been going through a difficult time with their partners. Many have been subjected to severe beatings and have been silent without reporting to the relevant authorities.

Many women in relationships live anxious, insecure and stigmatized lives. Does this happen to men as well? Do these women have a place to defend themselves if they see signs

Coalition launches 5-yr strategic plan to protect women and girls from abuse

The Guardian 20 April 2022

By Beatrice Philemon

THE Coalition for Women Human Rights Defenders Tanzania (CWHRDs) has launched a five-year strategic plan to protect women and girls from abuse.

Speaking at the launching ceremony CWHRDs coordinator Hilda Dadu said the strategic plan will provide a road map for the implementation of all planned activities of the coalition for five years.

The launched plan is themed: "Enhance safer working environment for CWHRDs to ensure women and girls' rights are protected."

According to her, the main goal is to create a resilient and robust movements and safer working environment for women human rights defenders of Tanzania.

"We hope stakeholders from different sectors across the country will support the coalition technically and financially so that we can protect and promote human rights in Tanzania," she said.

The Coalition for Women Human Rights Defenders is a newly formed organization whose aim is to defend women human rights defenders in Tanzania.

The launching ceremony involved participants from UN Women, Legal and Human Rights Center (LHRC), Gender Climate Change Tanzania Coalition (GCCCTC), Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRC), Freedom House Country Representative, Defend

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights), UN Women Country Representative.

So far it has more than 60 members representing Organizations and individual activists from Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar.

"So far the Coalition has been able to provide protection support to more than 68 Women Human Rights Defenders (WHRDs) who were at risks or threats, it provided capacity building in various human rights issues related to their works," he said.

A representative from the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Regional Office, Catherine De Preux De Baets said the Strategic plan serves as a blueprint for strengthened engagement with international human rights mechanism s and offers a platform for Tanzania nWHRDs to be heard and to meaningfully participate in national processes to advance the human rights of women and girls in the country .

The organization aims at protecting and strengthening the movement, it creates a space where WHRDs come together to fight for Human Rights and promote gender equality.

Human Rights and Good Governance (CHARGG)'s Commissioner Judge (rtd) Mathew Mwaimu called upon the work together with you whenever and wherever possible to defend human rights defenders.



Women rights defenders commend 'unsung heroes' conserving environment

By Guardian Correspondent, Handeni

IT is not more often that you find people leave major cities like Dar es Salaam and opt to commemorate the International Women's Day in the up-country regions.

However, this time around, some committed women felt it befit to go beyond the normal jubilations where they went to commemorate the day with women from the grassroots level, the unsung heroes who have been in the forefront to protect and conserve the mother nature.

To them, March 15 seemed more ideal to discuss on the impact of climate change and measures to be taken to address its impacts. Organized by the Coalition for Women Human Rights Defenders - Tanzania (CWHRDs-TZ) and Women Action towards Economic Empowerment and Development (WATED), the unique event was conducted in Handeni District, Tanga Region.

During the day, several calls were made by various speakers for community members to collaborate to address climate change impacts to promote equitable, inclusive and a society free from gender discrimination for sustainable development.

In her speech, CWHRDs-TZ Board Member, Rose Ugulumu, said the dialogue was meant to recognize the great contribution made by women and girls all over the world to address the impacts of climate change.

"The CWHRDs-TZ celebrates the voices of women in Tanzania and especially role models and champions of climate change impact's mitigation and adaptation as more women and girls than men are affected," said Ugulumu.

According to her, climate change impacts affect more women and girls in rural areas than in urban because they rely on farming as their main source of livelihood.

According to National Bureau of Statistics data, Ugulumu added that, in 2012 about 77% of women and girls lived in villages and engaged mostly in small farming as their main source of livelihood.

She mentioned some of climate change impacts which directly affect



women and girls in rural areas as drought, shortage of food, water and sources of energy especially firewood and charcoal.

CWHRDs-TZ member and WATED Executive Director, Maria Matui who is also a Coordinator of Gender and Climate Change Tanzania Coalition (GCCTC) said CSOs promote utilization of the existing traditional knowledge and opportunities available at the different sectors at district level to address climate change impacts to women and girls.

"Human rights CSOs use the available guidelines, policies and laws to work closely with the government and to ensure that every woman human right defender plays her role to address climate change impacts mitigation and adaptation regardless of where they live," said Matui.

According to Matui, the climate change impacts on women and girls has become an international agen-

da where for the first time, the UN has discussed in depth during the climate Change Global Conference this year on how climate change impacts women and girls in a very different way.

Speaking on behalf of the Handeni District Commissioner, Upendo Magashi, revealed that the International Women's Day is a progressing agenda, which coincides with different activities related to health, environment, and governance to reflect on challenges which face women socially, politically and economically.

"Climate change has brought various challenges globally and is vivid in Handeni. It has brought a lot of uncertainties in terms of rain seasons as in our district there have been instances where rains come earlier than usual and at times with delay thus affecting growing seasons especially of maize. All of the

changes are a result of human activities, which are not sustainable," said Magashi.

She called upon participants to educate communities on the need to plant trees as mitigation measure against climate change impacts.

"Community members should be educated on the impact of unsustainable harvesting of forests where a person can harvest trees and conduct charcoal business without planting even a single tree at his homestead. This is unacceptable in our communities," warned Magashi.

She said that communities need enough environmental education especially on the importance of forest conservation through CSOs in collaboration with the government as CSOs can reach where government has not reached.

According to her the government through the Handeni district coun-

cil has been distributing free seedlings to communities to promote afforestation in the district.

According to the UN, the International Women's Day is celebrated in many countries around the world to recognize them for their achievements against climate change impacts, whether national, ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic or political.

Since those early years, International Women's Day has assumed a new global dimension for women in developed and developing countries alike.

The growing international women's movement, which has been strengthened by four global United Nations women's conferences, has helped make the commemoration a rallying point to build support for women's rights and participation in the political and economic arena, reads the UN statement.

WHRDs urged to forge links with parliament, networks

The Guardian April 22, 2022

By Beatrice Philemon

WOMEN Human Rights Defenders (WHRDs) have been urged to strengthening partnerships with Parliament and other networks such as Tanzania Women Parliamentary Group (TWPG), Tanzania Women Judges Association (TAWJA) to support reforms of legislation and policies.

UN Women Country Representative, Hodan Ad-dou made the remarks yesterday when speaking at the launch the Coalition for Women Human Rights Defenders Tanzania (CWHRDs) five-year strategic plan.

Hodan said some of the policies have been a thorny as it bars them from freedom of association, assembly, and expand the room of civic space.

She said strengthening partnerships is crucial to easily address hurdles prevent WHRDs from exercising their rights to political participation.

She also advised them to build strong relationships with the Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance (CHRAGG), such as conducting joint gender-sensitive analyses on national legisla-

tion, policies and programmes to ensure compliance with the state's international human rights obligations.

Other issues includes strengthening capacities on the administration of justice to ensure effective access to justice by WHRDs, developing protection protocols and to act as referral channels to report cases of intimidation, threats and reprisals against WHRDs.

UN Women as a part of the UN System in Tanzania strongly believes that the significant role of Defenders of women's rights in bringing about positive development outcomes must be recognized and supported.

It is on this basis that in 2020, UN Women developed a guidance note on -Supporting Women Human Rights Defenders which provides a model of integrated action to guide our collaboration with, and support to WHRDs.

She was pleased to note that the new UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for Tanzania plays an important role in strengthening engagement with civil society organizations

and WHRDs.

As national, regional, and international human rights protection mechanisms can offer remedies and protection for violations or threats. "I encourage you to actively participate in these mechanisms, particularly through the preparation of shadow reports to human rights reporting processes such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

CHRGG's chairman, Judge (rtd) Mathew Mwaimu noted that his commission is working tirelessly to promote and protect the rights of human rights defenders.

So far, he said that the commission in collaboration with the Network of African National Human Rights Institutions (NANHRI) have conducted a baseline assessment to 13 Tanzanian Mainland ministries, departments, National Institutions and Agencies especially those in one way or another encounter with human rights defenders in their day to day activities.

Wednesday 16 February 2022

NATIONAL NEWS

The Guardian

Cleric calls for timely mediation to save society from brutal killings

By Correspondent Rose Mwalongo

A Muslim cleric has called upon the need for decision-making organs such as religious institutions, courts, mediation and arbitration bodies to decide all matters on time to spare the society from brutal killings.

Sheikh Swedi Twaibu Swedi from the Office of the Chief Mufti in Tanzania made the observation in Dar es Salaam recently during a one day dialogue organized by the Coalition of Women's Human Rights Defenders to discuss brutal killings in the country.

"Delays in decision making is one of the most critical reasons as it leads to stress and confusion leading some to commit the brutal killings we see. For instance, a person may wait for years for decisions to be made on inheritance or land matters. Some starve as they wait for authorities to give ruling of cases and as a result, they become frustrated and resort to

desperate measures committing the killings we see," said the cleric.

According to the cleric, the country must among other things turn to divine power in prayers to spare the country from the killings.

For her part, Dr Fatma Khalifan, the commissioner for Human Rights and Good Governance called upon the need for religious leaders to speed up religious teachings and morals while denouncing brutal acts to contain the situation.

"Most brutal killings are due to vengeance, witchcraft beliefs, the habit of taking law in one's own hand and greed for material gain. We need to come with a conflict resolution modality to intervene beforehand," said the CHRAGG commissioner.

In her opening speech, Hilda Dadu Stuart, the coordinator for the Coalition for Women's Human Rights Defenders said Tanzania may seem like a peaceful country but the situation at the family

level is not okay for not only girls and women but also men. She called upon the need for society to find out the root cause of these killings and to seek a way forward to curb it.

Mary Lusimbi, an executive director for Women Fund Tanzania called upon the community to assist whenever they hear or witness violence instead of remaining quiet.

"Let us stop the habit of saying the matter is private, as private is public, especially if one dies on the way," warned Lusimbi.

The dialogue conducted virtually, brought together clerics, health experts, lawyers, community based organizations, members of the press as well as development partners with support from Freedom House.

The main objectives of the session were to establish possible causes which trigger brutal killings in Tanzania and to propose rigorous measures to address the situation.

Tuesday 15 February 2022

The Guardian

Call to invest in mental health to check killings

By Correspondent Rose Mwalongo

A medical expert has called upon the need to invest in mental health to curb brutal killings and incidents of gender based violence (GBV) in Tanzania.

Dr Veronica Alex, a mental health expert, made the observations from Dodoma yesterday during a national dialogue on women's rights, GBV and brutal killings in Tanzania.

"Anybody who commits a brutal or violent act is normally mentally unfit. Each one of us is stressed in their own way. The question is, over whom to tell our problems to. If the country were to invest in mental health we would have not reached this state. If it was in my way, I would urge each leader to undergo a mental status evaluation," said Dr Veronica Alex.

She warned the public to desist from speaking whenever in anger as doing so can spark trouble.

For her part, Martha Jerome, the Executive Director for Women Promotion Centre in Kigoma attributed the brutal killings in the society to the culture of silence where women are told to remain quiet whenever their rights are violated, especially at family level.

She called upon the society to abscond from the culture of silence where reporting on spousal battery for instance is regarded as humiliation to

the partner, something she said has at times led to grave consequences.

For his part, Dr Charles Kitima who is the Executive Director for the Tanzania Episcopate Centre called upon the need to incorporate the principles of human rights in the education syllabuses where children will be taught to respect human dignity from primary schools all the way to tertiary institutions.

"We need to turn to God for divine power to curb the situation. Religious leaders should integrate human rights teachings as they preach, be it in church or mosques, especially on equality between women and men," said Dr Kitima who doubles as a Roman Catholic priest.

The one day virtual dialogue brought together over 140 participants being human rights activists, representatives from community based organizations, human rights monitors, from various parts of Tanzania, UN, USAID, Data driven members, members of the press as well as Muslim and Christian clerics.

The meeting was organized virtually by the Coalition for Women Human Rights Defenders in Tanzania and was supported by Freedom House.

The main objective of the dialogue was to find possible causes that trigger brutal killings and GBV in the country, as well as to come up with rigorous measures to address the vice.

Friday 14 January 2022

The Guardian

Coalition to hold survey on causes of women's killings

By Beatrice Philemon

The Coalition for Women Human Rights Defenders is launching for a countrywide survey to develop the main source of killings of women in society.

Addressing journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday, CWHRD coordinator Hilda Dadu Stuart said "We're launching (GBV), which will be okay for the study. During the survey, we'll visit in different areas and have face-to-face interviews with men, women, youth, legal aid providers, gender desk in police stations and other people to identify the cause of femicide that is very high than in the past years."

Hilda said "In recent years women are killed for being suspected witchcraft in rural areas, but right now gender-related killings of women are very high in Tanzania and as defenders we're very concerned with the high level of femicide in our country." According to her, women are routinely killed by their husband, partner and their children for jealousy or inheriting property.

So far, eight women have been killed by their spouses and children, that's why we want to conduct research to see what the causes are and what should be done to prevent this femicide.

"I thought, this is not true, the cause of women killings is depressing because right now mental health problems are very high for Tanzanians due to poverty, lack of employment, conflicts between two families or relatives, gender based violence for both women and men, sitting at home all day with no work, no movement and other issues," she said.

Hilda said a country wide survey will help them to come up with new comprehensive strategy and legal framework on protection measures to prevent femicide victims.

the country, end to GBV, and take legal action for all suspects or killers because women have right to live and to be valued similarly to men.

According to her, social workers officers should also take various measures to assist local communities, up whom they encountered in their families, giving them proper advice in accordance with the main challenges they face and even conduct face-to-face discussions with them to investigate the source of the killings.

The coalition said the obtained report should be submitted to Parliament to see their mental health conditions that in turn will help them to access medications and even provide therapy for them, the main goal is to protect femicide that is very high across the country. Highlighting on parents, Hilda pointed out that parents should also listen their children once they come to report what they encounter from their husband or partners, don't ignore them, allow them to say everything that they think can cause killings to them instead of telling them to be patient in marriage.

Media organizations should also take serious measures to identify and report these incidents so that the government can be aware on what is going on across the country, have a proper data on femicide and later on take legal actions for killers, the statement said.

All human rights defenders and activists should come up with new programme to visit in local communities to solve the main challenges they encounter at their localities.

So far, eight women have been killed by their spouses and children, that's why we want to conduct research to see what the causes are and what should be done to prevent this femicide.

for loans special ATMs



3. Outcome # 2: Improve Membership Affairs

Objective: *Building capacities of WHRDs members of the coalition through other national women's movements, women's rights organizations and networks as well as promoting collaboration and coordination among human rights and women's rights organizations at the national level to strengthen responses concerning safety and wellbeing of WHRDs of Tanzania.*

Under this Outcome, the following were the activities implemented: -

3.1 Capacity Building for WHRDs on International Human Rights Mechanisms

The launched of CWHRDs-Tz Strategic plan held on 19th April 2022 and accompanied with the learning session of the International, regional and sub regional human rights mechanisms.

The objective of the session based on facilitating increased access to justice for victims of Gender based violence. Capacity building to WHRDs on various human rights instruments related to their works enabling them to understand those mechanisms for easily implement of their works. The session was supported and facilitated by **Ms.Catherine De Preux De Baets** from UN OHCHR EARO. Through that session, WHRDs gained understanding on the International Human Rights instruments including:

- 1949 Universal Declaration on Human Rights (UDHR)
- 1965 International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD)
- 1966 – International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)
- 1966 – International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)
- 1979 – International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)



Ms. Catherine from UN OHCHR East Africa Regional office – Ethiopia facilitates during the learning session on the International Human Rights Mechanisms

3.2. Capacity building on monitoring, documenting and reporting on economic Social Cultural rights for WHRDs and CSOs of Tanzania

CWHRDs TZ conducted Capacity building on methodology for monitoring, documenting and reporting progressive realization of the right to health, food and water (27-28 June 2022) and Capacity building of WHRDs on engagement with human rights mechanisms and Treaty Reporting (African Commission on Human and People's Rights, TBs, UPR and Special Procedures) on thematic Economic Social Cultural rights issues.

WHRDs got clear understanding on Human Rights indicators framework, which help to monitor implementation of human rights. They learned on methodology for monitoring progressive realization of the right to the highest attainable of physical and mental health including monitoring laws and policies, budgets and practices.

On other hand WHRDs becoming familiar with the 2030 Agenda, it's Sustainable Development Goals and their linkage with human rights.

Also they got experience on justifiability of Economic Social Cultural Rights on strategic litigation of maternal health. Tanzania, National Human right Action plan recognizes that the protection and promotion of human rights is not limited to a single topic, sector, or government ministries, departments or agency, it identifies twenty-three human rights issues including economic, social and cultural rights that address the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.



Group photo of WHRDs, facilitators and commissioner from CHRAGG attended the training on monitoring, documenting and reporting on Economic, Social Cultural Rights.

In order to fill the existing gap of capacity most Women human rights defenders and women led organizations, in monitoring, documenting and reporting accountability, accessibility, quality and availability of right to health in Tanzania. The coalition worked and built capacities of 40 WHRDs from CSOs to understand the aspects of monitoring, documenting and reporting issues regarding health rights. UN OHCHR East Africa provided Technical Assistant to the team of WHRDs of Tanzania.

4.0 Outcome # 3: Institutional Development and Sustainability

Objective: To strengthen human and financial resources, improve secretariat members, to improve governance programs, Board of directors’ performances and motivate staff and volunteers.

Some of the activities falls under this area were as follows:-

4.1 Launching of the CWHRDS-TZ Strategic Plan

The Coalition launched its five years Strategic Plan from 2022-2026 with the theme “Create safer working environment for WHRDs to ensure women’s and girl’s rights are protected.”



Ms. Hoddan Adou -UN Women Country Representative (up left), Mr. Onesmo Olungurumwa-THRDC National Coordinator (up right), Retired Judge .Mathew Mwaimu Chairperson CHRAGG (down left) and Mr. Daniel Lema-Freedom House (down right) during the Launch of Strategic Plan

The launching of Strategic plan held on **19th April 2022** at the Four Points by Sheraton hotel in Dar es salaam, Tanzania.

The launch event was attended by **94 participants** (73 women and 21 men), the youth participants were 36 (26 female and 10 male) and 3 participants with disabilities (2 female and 1 male). Participants came from different including members of the

CWHRDs-TZ, Board of Directors and the team of secretariat , journalists from different medias including ITV, TBC, The Guardian, Mwananchi, Capital Radio and Radio one and other media, development partners, human rights organizations and The Chairperson and Commissioner from CHRAGG, THRDC, Freedom House Tanzania, UN OHCHR EARO, Defend Defenders Uganda and UN Women.

The Guest of Honor was **Ms.Hodan Addou**, the Country representative from UN-Women. The CWHRDs-TZ Strategic plan for 2022 -2026 based on two focus thematic areas which are i) creating resilient and robust movements and ii.) Create a safer working environment for women human rights defenders.

4.2 CWHRDs-Tz Annual General Meeting

20th April 2022 the coalition held its 2nd Annual General Meeting with its 68 members of the coalition who gathered from rural and urban areas of Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar. During Annual General meeting members got a chance of discussing annual activity and financial reports. This year also members of the coalition conducted the election of Members of their Board of directors.



Candidates vying for Board membership ask for votes from Annual General Meeting members

New Board of Directors (6 members) were elected and re-elected to support secretariat on the implementation of its five year Strategic Plan which was launched one day before the day of annual General meeting.



Group photo of participants during the CWHRDs Annual General Meeting

4.3. Digital Security Capacity Building for the team of the Secretariat.

CWHRDs-Tz through its secretariat team participated a six months online series of trainings on feminist Digital Safety Resilience for Women Human Rights Defenders since February, 2022. The Association for Progressive Communications Women's Rights Programme facilitated these trainings under the Global Fund for Women (End Violence project) The goal of training is for WHRDs organizations and networks to have confidence using digital platforms, with a clearer understanding of risks and steps to consider remedying them and carrying out their advocacy work in safer digital conditions.

The training was attended by participants from Mesoamerica, Uganda and Tanzania. Among other things learned from the t training, participants learned Online Gender Disinformation and Misinformation, Hate Speech and Stigmatization toward WHRDs, Data Privacy and Gender Workshop, Feminist Principals of the Internet and WHRDs, Internet Footprint and Anonymity, Feminist Learning Circle on Risk Assessment, and WHRD on Care and Healing Strategies.

4.4 Learning and networking with other CSOs

The Chairperson and National Coordinator of the coalition paid a visit to the Regional Human Rights Defenders Coalition (Defend Defenders) in Uganda for learning and strengthen partnership among the two coalitions to increase protection of WHRDs.



The chairperson and National Coordinator of the Coalition visited Regional Human Rights Defenders Coalition (RHRDC) to learn and strengthen their partnership towards protection of WHRDs. In the pictures are National Coordinator with RHRDs Executive Director, Program Director and Administration Manager.

Further, the visit was to learn and handing on succession of the coordination of the East Africa Women Human Rights Defenders Network to the CWHRDs TZ for the next phase of 2023 and to plan for EA WHRDs network Annual General Meeting of 2022.

Additionally, during this half year time, CWHRDs –Tz Secretariat team including project Officer, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Project Legal Officer and Membership Affairs Officer capacitated through invited workshop and meetings.

In the period of January-June 2022, CWHRDs-TZ secretariat team attended various workshops as follows: -

- i. CWHRDs attended the learning session of Monitoring and Evaluation which was conducted by Tanzania Gender Network Program (TGNP) on March 31, 2022. The learning session was aimed to explore tools for feminism gender lens in each project CSOs conducts.
- ii. CWHRDs attended three different workshops for Climate Change which aimed to lighten on how SCOs can chip in climate issues that seems to be new agenda. The workshop took place on Feb 24, 2022, March 20, 2022 and April 24, 2022.
- iii. CWHRDs-TZ attended a 3 days' Workshop (25-27th January 2022) organized by Bright Jamii Initiative aimed on raising awareness to women to participate on decision making from family level to community level and discuss the factors that limit women to participate in decision making. The workshop conducted in Tanga region and involved 3 villages namely Chongoleani, Putini and Ndaoya,
- iv. The Coalition also attended workshop organized by Zaina Foundation on 15thFebruary 2022 in Dar es Salaam aimed on building strategic plan of digital rights which will guide and give internet rights to users. Participants also got training on using Virtual Private Network (VPN) during shutdown of internet.
- v. The Coalition got Capacity buildings to engage Government actors and stakeholders on COVID-19 prevention, mitigation and advocacy on voluntary vaccination. The activity was organized by My Legacy organization on 19th May 2022 in Dar es Salaam.
- vi. CWHRDs-Tz attended workshop on 13-14thMay, 2022in Bagamoyo intended to increase ability and build skills for Reproductive Human Rights Defenders on Strategic Litigation to set legal standards for safe abortion within the existing legal framework. The workshop organized by WGNRR Africa and involves participants from CAMMAC, LSN, Journalists, Advocates from TLS and Service Providers.

- vii. CWHRDs-Tz participated in the stakeholders meeting for review and validation of accepted recommendations of Universal Periodic Review (UPR).The first phase of review was conducted in Morogoro region in April 09, 2022 and the second phase of validation was conducted at Dar es Salaam in May 22, 2022.



Joyce John from CWHRDs contributes in one of the capacity building sessions

5. Outcome # 4: Protection and Legal Support

Objective: *To support national organizations of women’s human rights and individuals who works in defending human rights of women in the country in promoting and strengthening collective action for protection, establishment solidarity and protection networks, the promotion of self care and advocacy and mobilization for the safety of WHRDs.*

5.1 Provide protection support which included relocation, Psychological and Family Support to WHRDs

The Coalition provided support to its WHRD member faced threat while who defending the rights of women and girls in Loliondo, Ngorongoro. She got threats from the authorities as was barred from conducting meetings with women and girls, her phone was surveilled and her contacts were tracked, threatened to ban their office if will continue to defend women and girls rights. Coalition supported her with, digital security training to secure her gadget and relocation of the office.

CWHRDs-Tz provided legal and security support to WHRD from Kilimanjaro who survived death from community members' relatives of culprit of rape case and defilement of children when she was trying to access justices of victims of sexual gender based violence.

The Coalition provided home security support to WHRD when Masai Community threatened to kill her for defending Maasai girl children from forced to child marriage.

The Coalition also provided legal and security support to WHRD when unknown people want to mislay her to stop follow up the cases of suspected rape and defilement of children brought to the court at Kinondoni Court of residency.

CWHRDs provided personal security and digital training and relocation to a female Journalist from Arusha who was barred from reporting any information related to land rights in Loliondo, Ngorongoro .Also This Journalist was threatened and monitored by the authoritarians for stop attending to the Government events due to the task of reporting health issues especially during COVID-19.

Further to that CWHRDs provided support to four victims of extreme Gender Based Violence whereby for the period of January to June 2022, the coalition has provided legal, medical and family supports to 4 victims of GBV in Mtwara, Dar es Salaam and Kilimanjaro.

5.2 Promoting Self Care and Well Being for WHRDs

Coalition conducted self care and well being session to WHRDs on 20th April 2022. The session aimed to reduce incidences of mental health to WHRDs. UN OHCHR-EARO facilitated the Technical support to WHRDs in how to remove work stresses and traumas resulting from defending works.



The learning by doing approach was practiced during WHRDs self-care and well being session

6. Organization's Key Achievements

CWHRDs-Tz observed key achievements resulting in the implementation of the planned activities as highlighted below:

- i. CWHRDs-Tz Successful launched its Strategic Plan 2022-2026 with two focus thematic areas which includes a) Creating a resilient Women Rights Movement and b) Creating a Safer working environments for Women Human Rights Defenders of Tanzania.
- ii. CWHRDs-Tz reached a total of 130 WHRDs and other stakeholders through capacity building.

- iii. Provision of protection support to Six (6) WHRDs and other 4 victims of extreme Gender Based Violence.
- iv. Increased access to justice for victims of Gender based violence through capacity building to WHRDs on understanding national, regional, sub regional and International Human Rights mechanisms
- v. Increased capacities of Monitoring, Reporting and documenting of Economic, social and cultural rights of 40 WHRDs from various CSOs of Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar.
- vi. Established strong relationship between the CWHRDs-Tz and Development Partners
- vii. Established strong collaboration with Government institutions
- viii. Trust and recognition of the Coalition increased (16 members have joined the coalition on January –June 2022)

7. Challenges

- i. Shortage of financial resources to cover all coalition expenses (staff volunteer, office space, office equipment and tools)
- ii. Digital Technological challenges include obstacles of using digital platforms to reach WHRDs especially in rural areas due to unstable and unreliable internet accessibility and connectivity.
- iii. Low understanding of WHRDs agenda by stakeholders. There is low understanding among stakeholders and WHRDs on how to link up their roles with other development agenda such as the need to eradicate GBV, maternal and newborn deaths and increasing number of women in decision-making positions.
- iv. Restrictive Laws such as freedom of expression, discrimination laws and lack of a comprehensive Gender based Violence law increase challenges for WHRDs works.