

**25 Years
of Using Law in
Transforming
Women's Lives**





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Prepared by

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Word from the National Coordinator



Women in Law and Development in Africa (WiLDAF) is celebrating 25 years of using law to transform women and girls' lives in Tanzania. Throughout this journey, WiLDAF Tanzania has directly touched lives citizens with legal aid provision services and emergence response to victims and survivors of GBV, community awareness, behavioural change and women in leadership programmes.

WiLDAF throughout planning and implementation of its programmes collaborates with various stakeholders. Our collaboration with the Government has enabled us to take part in various reforms of policies and laws that benefit and protect women and girls in Tanzania. As a network organization it has brought and worked together with various NGOs, CBOs and Faith Based Organizations and Associations to create awareness on women and girls right. WiLDAF work have ignited and supported feminist, women movements and organizations to become sustainable, carry out their work to advance gender equality and women's rights.

This booklet takes stock of WiLDAF milestones in promoting women and girls' rights in Tanzania. From stories of our humble beginning, founders who made this 25 year's journey possible with high spirit and solidarity. The impact of our work aims at inspiring young generation to join in and carry forward the movement and feminist agenda, influence change and accelerate further gender equality and women empowerment.

I invite you all to read and join our movement to build just and equal societies.

Adv. Anna Kulaya

WiLDAF National Coordinator.



Acronyms and Abbreviations

AGWY -	Adolescent Girls and Young Women
AIDS -	Acquired Immuno-Deficiency Syndrome
ACHPR -	African Commission on Human and People's Rights
CCBRT -	Comprehensive Community Based Rehabilitation in Tanzania
CECI -	Centre for International Studies and Cooperation
CSOs -	Civil Society Organizations
DDA -	Data Driven Advocacy
DOLASED-	Disabled Organization for Legal Affairs and Social Economic Development
FCDO -	Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
FCS -	Foundation for Civil Society
FEDDAF -	Femmes Droit et Développement en Afrique
FGM -	Female Genital Mutilation
GBV -	Gender Based Violence
HIV -	Human Immuno-deficiency Virus
ICJ -	International Commission of Jurist
ILO -	International Labour Organization
KIKUHAMI-	Kikosi Kazi cha Kutetea Haki za Mirathi
KPMG -	Klynveld Peat Marwick Goerdeler
LEAT -	Lawyers Environmental Action in Tanzania
LHRC -	Legal and Human Rights Centre
MKUKI -	Mtandao wa Kupambana na Ukatili wa Kijinsia
NGOs -	Non-Governmental Organizations
NOLA -	National Organization for Legal Assistance
NPA-VAWC-	National Plan of Action to end Violence Against Women and Children
OAU -	Organization of African Union
PF3 -	Police Form Number 3
SIDO -	Small Industries Development Organisation
TANLAP -	Tanzania Network of Legal Aid Providers



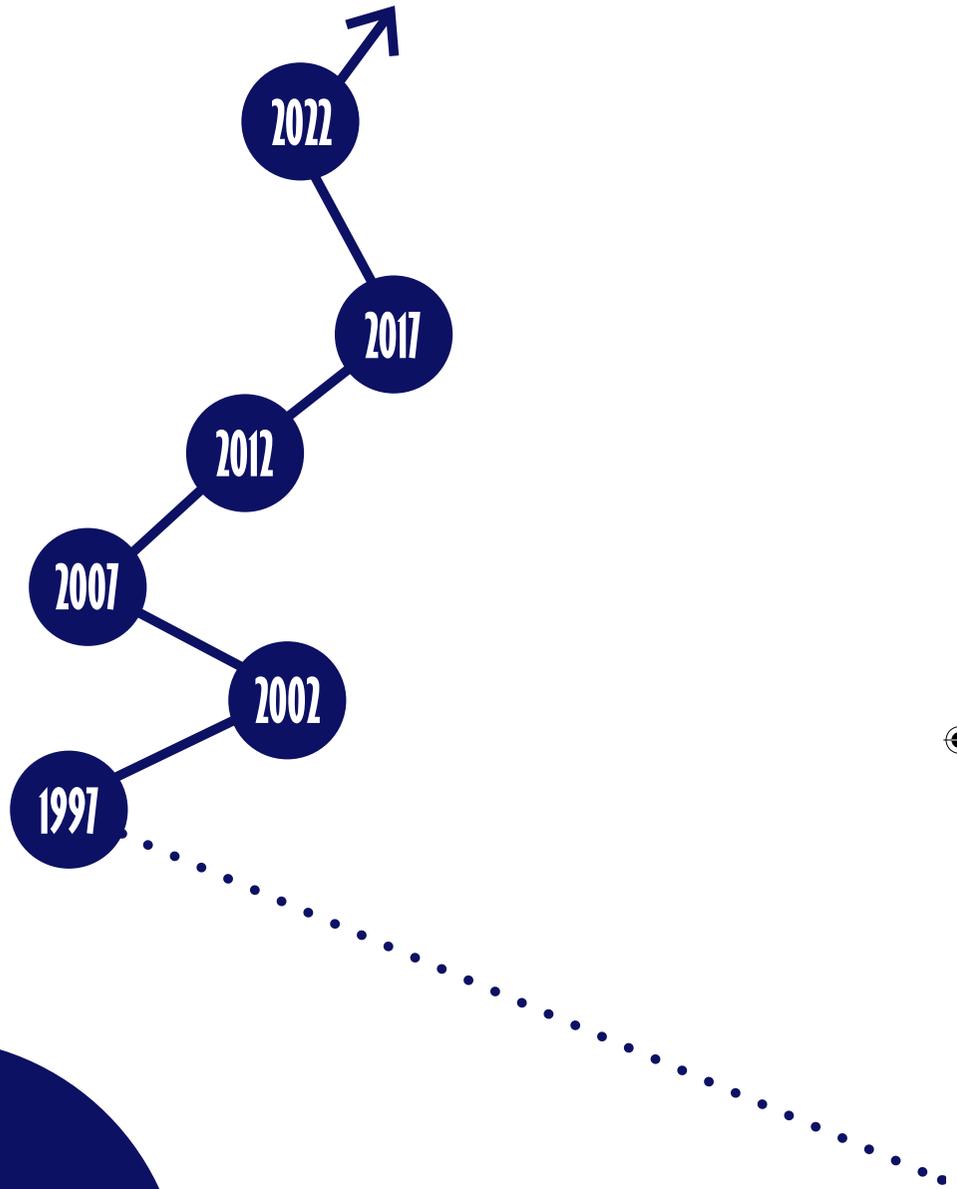
TAWLA -	Tanzania Women Lawyers Association
TAWJA -	Tanzania Women Judges Association
TGNP -	Tanzania Gender Networking Programme
USAID -	United State Agency for International Development
UNFPA -	United Nations Population Fund Agency
UN-WOMEN-	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
VAC -	Violence Against Children
VAWC -	Violence Against Women and Children
WiLDAF -	Women in Law and Development in Africa
WLAC -	Women Legal Aid Center
WFT -	Women Fund Trust



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CHAPTER
1

WiLDAF Genesis

United Nations Third World Conference on the Status of Women ‘women in Africa’ was held in Nairobi in 1985. Fifteen women participants were selected from each country to present an idea in their respective countries to form one organisation for women. An organization that would use law as a tool for development for women. From this concept, WiLDAF as an organisation was born.

“We believed that there were many laws that hindered the progress of women. That is why we agreed to establish organisations in each country that would influence reforms of the prejudice laws.” said Adv. Nakazael Tenga (a visionary who championed the formation of WiLDAF Tanzania Chapter).

After the Nairobi meeting National workshops were held between 1987 and 1990, in different African countries which led to the setting up of WiLDAF as a regional network. In 1989, a national meeting was held in Tanzania where the idea of establishment of a regional network was presented and agreed. Thus the country became part of the regional network. WiLDAF came into being and started to operate as a network in the country.

The first WiLDAF general meeting was held in Harare Zimbabwe in 1994 attended by WiLDAF members from 15 African countries. WiLDAF Tanzania chapter was represented by 5 members; Dr. Helen Kijo Bisimba, Advocate Nakazaeli Tenga, Honourable. Dr Asha Rose Migiro, Dr. Monica Mhoja and the late Advocate Evod Mmanda.

The participants from the 15 countries presented on the status of women in their countries and chatted the way forward to use law to improve the situation of women in their countries. Dr. Helen Kijo Bisimba presented on the situation of women in Tanzania in the meeting. She was later selected as part of the first WiLDAF Africa Board.

WiLDAF Tanzania Chapter had no resources during its establishment and was hosted by various organizations. It was initially hosted at SUWATA Legal Aid Center (now known as Women Legal Aid Centre (WLAC)) under the leadership of Advocate Nakazael Tenga. Later on WiLDAF meetings were conducted at Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP), where members would meet once every month. This situation continued until Dr. Judith Odunga volunteered her office space at the Institute of Adult Education where she was employed.

“I was a government official, so I allowed them to use a desks inside my office”. Dr. Judith Odunga says.





WiLDAF faced a lot of challenges at its inception, *“Not only did we have limited space, but because we weren’t registered, we had to work as a network and as a working pillar of WLAC and this inevitably made it harder to operate”*. Dr. Helen Kijo Bisimba stated

WiLDAF was officially registered in 1997. The establishment of WiLDAF and set up of office was not a smooth process as they were no funds or office materials. Dr. Judith Odunga, offered again her personal office at SIDO Building along Bibi Titi Mohamed Road to be used as the first WiLDAF office. She further requested her personal house help to act as a receptionist and sole staff of the newly established office. Later German Development Services provided the first office computer to facilitate the operations of the organization.

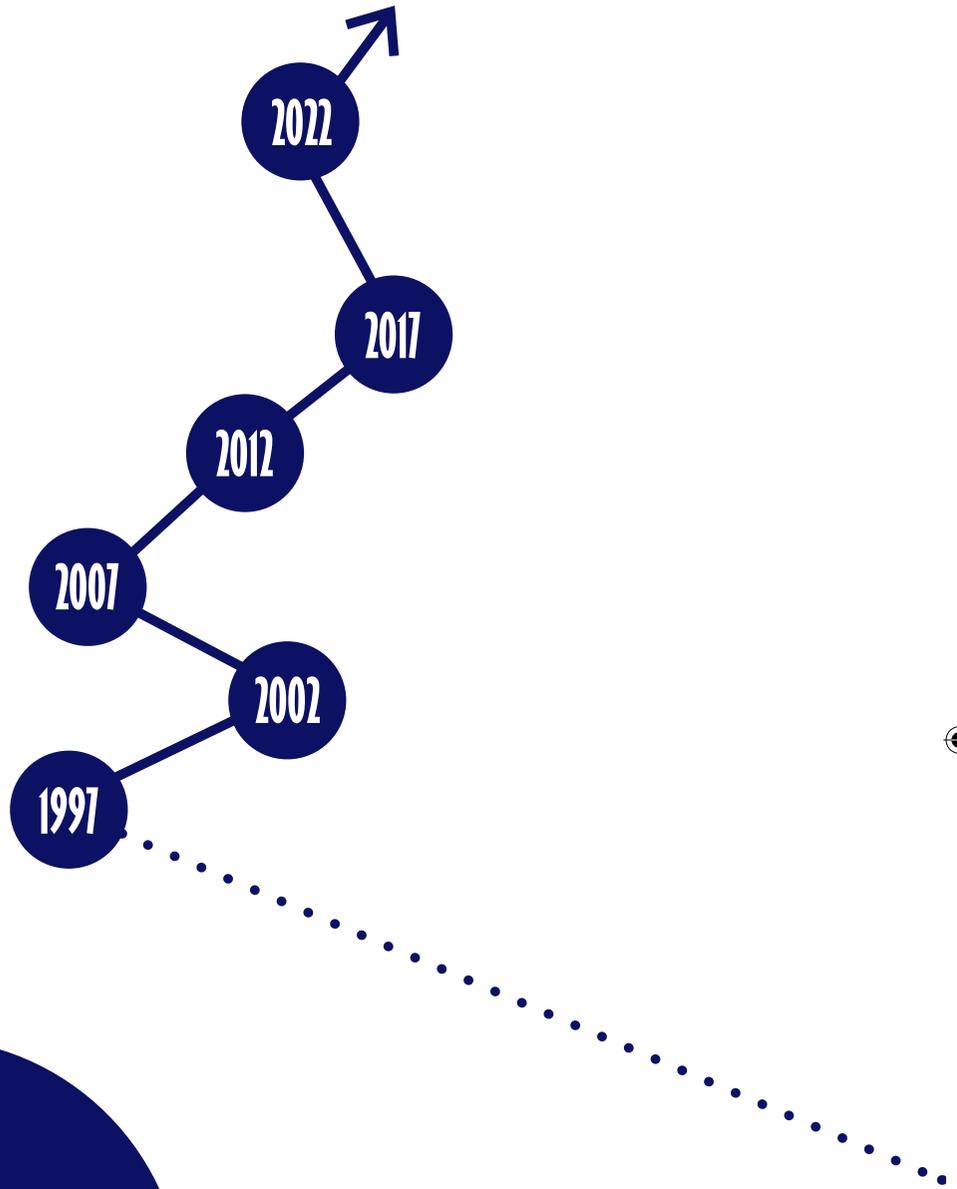
After its establishment and office set up WiLDAF started to work on prevention and response of gender based violence through the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence Campaign. Over the years the campaign has transformed to become one of the biggest movements in Tanzania.

“It is one of WiLDAF’s best accomplishments. At the time when we started the campaign in 1996, we were marching at the city centre with less than 20 women. People were laughing at us, calling us frustrated and divorced women. As of now, I am proud to see the 16 Days of Activism Campaign is a national movement where everyone is inspired to get involved.” Dr.Helen Kijo-Bisimba states.



Since its establishment WILDAF Tanzania Chapter has continued to grow, increasing its members and programmes across Tanzania.





CHAPTER
2

**Making A Difference
to Women's Lives**

25 Years of Contributing to Gender Responsive Policies and Laws

WiLDAF guided by the founding philosophy of linking law and development. It places advocacy for gender responsive legal and policy frameworks at its core. The Pan African Women Lawyers movement takes global commitments from the Third World Conference on the Status of Women held in Nairobi 1985 to the Beijing Conference of 1995 and others on women's rights and translates them to regional and national level commitments. It ensures global human rights frameworks and principles are adhered.

Regionally, it has played a central role in the development of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (the Maputo Protocol). At national levels, WiLDAF chapters have been supported to identify pertinent areas in the legal and policy frameworks and diverse advocacy strategies based on their peculiar context.

WiLDAF also recognizes that a good law is not an end to itself, rather a tool for empowerment and development. As such, WiLDAF advocacy work for legal and policy frameworks is centred to bring impact in the lives of women, girls and society at large.

WiLDAF contribution in the Beijing Platform for Action movement

WiLDAF as an organised Pan-African network with a collective African agenda played a significant role during the preparations of the 1995 Beijing Conference.

The network was cemented and strengthened regionally, sub-regionally and nationally as members prepared for the Beijing Conference. Each sub-region was tasked to conduct a research on pertinent women legal issue in the region. These were to be discussed during the African Meeting in preparation towards Beijing conference. The Southern African Sub-region worked on Violence Against Women and specifically researched on Femicide in twelve Southern African Countries. West African Sub-region worked on the Structural Adjustment Programs and their effect on the human rights of African Women. The East African Sub-Region worked on Human rights of Women in Conflict Situations. WiLDAF Tanzania researched on women refugees while Kenya and Uganda and Sudan chapters researched on the situation of internally displaced women. The findings and proposals of these researches were discussed in Dakar Senegal during the African women preparatory meeting in 1994 and were adopted to be tabled in Beijing in 1995.



The WiLDAF delegation to Beijing which included two representatives from Tanzania (Adv. Nakazael Tenga and Dr.Helen Kijo-Bisimba) had prepared three booklets based on the three studies and their recommendations. They attended the NGO Forum and the Government meeting which drafted the Beijing Platform of Action. Many issues from the WiLDAF recommendation as adopted in the Dakar Conference were incorporated to form part of the Platform of action. However, the issue of internally displaced persons was not picked directly as proposed by WiLDAF. It was a seed which provided gender perspective on the issue and contributed to the passing of Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement of 1998. Other studies on internally displaced persons at that time were general and did not include specific gender issues.

WiLDAF Contribution in the development of Maputo Protocol

The African Charter on Human Rights and Peoples Rights (ACPR), 1981 popularly known as Banjul Charter was reviewed and identified to lack holistic protection of women rights. This was one of WiLDAF concerns during its first general assembly. It was agreed follow up to be done at the Africa Commission for an optional protocol specific for women.

The drafting process for the Optional Protocol started in March 1995 in Lome, Togo. The African Commission on Human on Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) in collaboration with WiLDAF, organised a two days seminar on the African Charter of the Humans' and Peoples Rights, and the Human Rights of Women in Africa. Forty four (44) participants, from 17 African countries, representing NGOs working in the field of women's rights participated in the seminar. Urgent need for an additional instrument to the African Charter on the needs and concerns of women was discussed. Together with the appointment of a Special Rapporteur on women's rights in Africa.

General recommendations and resolutions of the seminar were presented at the ACHPR, which transmitted them to the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the OAU for approval. Once the recommendations were approved, experts were charged with the responsibility to draft the optional Protocol.

A meeting of 15 experts was organized in Nouakchott, Islamic Republic of Mauritania from 12th to 14th April 1997, for the preparation of a draft of the Optional Protocol. The meeting prepared the first draft of the Protocol to the African Charter on Women's Rights. The draft of the Protocol was submitted to the ACHPR during its 22nd session held in October 1997 for consideration and comments. It was also distributed to NGOs for comments.



The 12th workshop of the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) on the participation of NGOs to the work of the ACHPR was held on 30th October to 1st November 1997 in Banjul, Gambia. This was an important stage in the conception of the Optional Protocol. The workshop brought together 110 participants, members of Civil Society and the ACHPR. It provided opportunity for NGOs to contribute to the draft Optional Protocol. From the session, a resolution on Women's rights was voted, exhorting the ACHPR, in conjunction with the ICJ and all the people concerned, to ensure the completion of the drafting of the Optional Protocol within time. The resolution also exhorted the ACHPR to adopt the draft of the Optional Protocol on women's rights at their next session and appointed a special Rapporteur on Women's rights as agreed during the meeting in Lome in 1995.

The first meeting of the working group on women's rights set up by the ACHPR took place in Banjul, Gambia from the 26th to 28th January, 1998. A second draft of the Protocol was produced at this meeting. It was disseminated for input by Civil Societies in the various countries.

On the basis of the, WILDAF/FEDDAF, (WILDAF is known as FEDDAF in French speaking countries) sub regional office coordinated and mobilised women's rights and human rights organisations to contribute to the development of the draft Optional Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa version produced in June 1999 in Dakar. This enabled the participation and inclusion of more networks and organisations views on the draft.

National workshops were organised in 7 countries, namely Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mali, Senegal and Togo. Women rights organisations were deliberate and have consensual input in the Optional Protocol. These amendments were presented at a sub-regional workshop of synthesis and harmonisation held from 29th September to 1st October, 1999 in Abidjan Côte D'ivoire.

The consensual inputs adopted at Abidjan workshop were transmitted to the ACHPR secretariat and to members of the working group in its meeting in Kigali. The working group integrated these inputs in the draft version of the Protocol submitted thereafter to the ACHPR which met in Kigali after the working group meeting. It is this version of the Optional Protocol which was adopted by the ACHPR.

The version of the Protocol adopted in Kigali in November 1999 was transmitted by the ACHPR to the General Secretariat of the OAU on November 15 of the same year for adoption and ratification.



During that time the OAU General Secretariat also received a draft convention on traditional practices affecting the basic rights of women and girls. A joint initiative of the Unit of women of the OAU and the Inter-African Committee on Harmful Traditional Practices on Health of Women and Children. After examination of the draft Protocol prepared by the ACHPR and the draft convention by the Inter-African Committee, the Secretariat-general recommended the two drafts to be combined to come up with one document.

After deliberations between the OAU General Secretariat and the two institutions. The harmful traditional practices text was incorporated into the Optional Protocol which is a text with more general range on women's rights in Africa. This work was done during the last week of July 2000. This Protocol was used as a background for the first meeting of experts held in Addis-Ababa from 12th to 16th November 2001.

Prior to first meeting of government experts, mobilisation and lobbying continued supported by CECI/DCF. Sensitising governmental authorities and experts appointed to examine the Protocol to maintain its substance in favour of African women. Further a meeting of civil societies from sub regions of Africa and other countries of West Africa not associated with the action since 1999, was organised in Bamako from 12th to 14th February 2000. The meeting harmonised civil society strategies in support of the Protocol. A regional Committee, coordinated by WiLDAF/FeDDAF was established. Lobbying at national level was carried out by national committees, national workshops took place in 7 West Africa countries for follow-up.

The regional committee, in preparation for the first meeting of government experts held in November 2001 lobbied governmental authorities that experts would take into account the new consensual inputs of the Civil Society. The participation of the delegation of the regional committee in the first meeting of the experts largely facilitated the consideration of the inputs of Civil Societies.

In preparation of the second meeting of experts to be followed by a meeting of Ministers concerned with the Protocol. The regional committee continued to lobby governmental authorities and civil society organisations, including institutions likely to be interested in the Protocol. Two meetings took place in March 2003. Once again the committee mobilized during the two meetings to ensure that the version of the Protocol from the second meeting did not call into question decisions made on articles such as those relating to polygamy.

The version of the protocol resulting from the meeting of Ministers was



successively adopted by the Executive Council (Foreign Ministers) and the Assembly of the African Union (made up of the Heads of States and Governments) during the Summit of the African Union held in Maputo (Mozambique) from the 6th to 12th July, 2003.

WiLDAF Tanzania and other member networks in the country followed the process to its end. They raised public awareness and advocated for its ratification of the Protocol by the Tanzania government. Tanzania ratified the Protocol to the Africa Charter on Human and Peoples Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa on the 3rd March 2007.

Making Global and Regional Instruments a Reality to National Laws, Policies and Guidelines

WiLDAF's role of using law as a tool for women development at the global and regional level has been translated in advocacy initiatives for gender responsive policies and laws. For the past 25 years, WiLDAF contributed in policy and legal reforms to protect women's rights. Below are the most prominent instances:



Enactment of the Legal Aid Act No.1 of 2017: WiLDAF Tanzania advocacy work was instrumental in lobbying for the enactment of the Legal Aid Act, which was passed in 2017. WiLDAF role in the advocacy for Legal Aid Act can be traced back in 1994 during WiLDAF's regional meeting whereby members agreed to establish paralegal services to provide legal support for women and girls at the grassroot levels. Coming back from the meeting, the Women's Legal Aid Centre (WLAC) founding members of WiLDAF was the first institution to establish paralegal units in Tanzania. Later on, the role of paralegal services expanded and thus the need to legally recognize their position in the legal fraternity. In this regard, WiLDAF partnered with other like-minded organizations in particular Tanzania Network for Legal Providers (TANLAP) to champion for the enactment of the Legal Aid Act. To recognize the role of paralegals in delivery of access to justice amongst women, girls and marginalised communities. The Legal Aid Act has become significant in recognizing the role of paralegals and expanding legal aid services to the benefit many women and girls.

Political Parties Act (CAP 258) R.E 2019 and National Election Act (CAP 343) Revised 2015: WiLDAF and other Civil Society Organizations advocated for the review of Political Parties Act to increase women participation in political leadership positions. In the miscellaneous amendments of the Political Parties Act (CAP 258) R.E 2019 Section 6(A)(5) provides for gender and social inclusion. WiLDAF continues to engage with the Government to ensure the law provides for gender quota requirements in all political activities, and set

mechanisms for 50:50 representations. In the course of drafting this booklet, it is on record that the Government through the Law Review Commission has initiated a review process and once finalised the draft Bill will be tabled to Parliament. The envisioned change will provide an ideal framework that supports women's equal participation in political parties leadership and candidates during elections.

Review of HIV/AIDS (Prevention and Control) Act No. 28 of 2008: WiLDAF through joint efforts with working group two under the Data Driven Advocacy project championed for the review of HIV/AIDS (Prevention and Control) Act No. 28 of 2008 to lower the minimum age for HIV/AIDS testing to allow adolescents to test without seeking parental consent. The law was successfully reviewed in 2020 to allow children from the age of 15 to voluntarily test for HIV/AIDS without parental consent. This is a major step in preventing new HIV/AIDS infections considering the high rates of new infections amongst Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) in Tanzania.

Review of Discriminatory Laws of Inheritance: This has been WiLDAF's main agenda of advocacy work since 2000. It is championed through joint efforts under *Kikosi cha Kupambana na Haki za Mirathi (KIKUHAMI)* Taskforce. The network has advocated for the amendment of the laws to key government officials since then, raised public awareness on gaps in the law and successfully developed a model inheritance law which was tabled to high level Government leaders. However to date no action has been taken. Glancing upon reforms taken by the 6th Phase Government to promote women's economic justice, we remain optimistic that review of the inheritance law will become a reality and increase protection of women's rights to property through inheritance.

Review of the Law of Marriage Act No. 5 of 1971; Recognizing the intertwined nature of the Laws of Inheritance and the Law of Marriage Act, WiLDAF has been advocating for the review of Law of Marriage Act. WiLDAF's agenda goes beyond the minimum age of marriage. Its concern is to overhaul the entire law to become more gender responsive with progressive provisions on women's rights. WiLDAF continues to work closely with the Ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs to accelerate change of the LMA. Recently, the Ministry tasked WiLDAF with gathering views from two groups (CSOs and media). Optimistic with energy, dedication and political will of the 6th regime, it is our hope the LMA amendments will be tabled in the parliament during the regime.

Ratification of ILO Convention No. 190 of 2019, Concerning violence and harassment in the world of work. Ratification of ILO Convention No. 190 has become one of WiLDAF's major tasks in promoting women economic justice. While continuing with advocacy at the National level for ratification, WiLDAF has also been empowering enterprises, in the industrial sector to develop



anti sexual harassment policies as part of their fulfilling of their obligations under the Convention. From 2020 to 2021 it is on record that 71 industries have been empowered and has developed anti sexual harassment policies that benefit more than 14,000 women workers.

Review of Police Form Number 3 (PF3): WiLDAF advocacy work was instrumental in the design and adoption of a revised PF3 used by health-care providers, police, and Social Welfare Officers to document cases of Gender Based Violence (GBV) and Violence Against Children (VAC). Prior to the review the form was general and did not include specific provisions on sexual assault. WiLDAF worked extensively with the Tanzanian Police Force as well as the Ministry of Health to revise the previous form and adjust the process and guidelines (PF3 circular). The form now supports the legal system in prosecuting perpetrators of violence by providing critical forensic and medical evidence by health providers who examine sexual assault victims.

National Plan of Action to End Violence Against Women and Children (NPA-VAWC 2016/17-2021/22): WiLDAF has been part of the technical team that influenced and supported the development of the 5-year National Plan of Action to End Violence against Women and Children. The plan has been instrumental in strengthening coordination of the country's efforts to eliminate violence against women and children (VAWC) in Tanzania. It has established violence protection, preventions and response structures from village to national levels. It has also provided for multi stakeholders engagement and coordination of efforts. WiLDAF is a member of the Secretariat, Technical and Steering Committee of the NPA-VAWC.

Guidelines for the Establishment and Operationalization of Gender Desks in Higher and Middle Learning Institutions: Alarmed by the increasing rate of Sextortion incidents in higher learning institutions, WiLDAF and GBV MKUKI Coalition included the issue as one of the major asks in the 2018 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence campaign. During the campaign launch, the Minister of Health, Community Development, Gender Elderly and Children of the time, directed the Ministry to establish gender desks in higher learning institutions.

This was followed by consultative sessions between the Ministry and heads of higher learning institutions which resolved to establish a framework to guide the establishment and operationalization of the envisioned gender desks. WiLDAF worked with the Government in the drafting and validation sessions with key stakeholders until the final draft was launched by the Prime Minister of Tanzania, Honourable Kassim Majaliwa Majaliwa during the 2021 commemoration of the 16 Days of Activism Campaign Against Gender Based Violence. 22 institutions have established the envisioned gender desks in 2022, creating a safe learning environment for all.





National Gender Policy: The Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups has involved WILDAF in the development process of National Gender Policy. In addition, WILDAF was among the technical working group that worked to input the draft. WILDAF led consultative sessions with Women’s Rights Organizations to input the draft. We are excitedly looking forward to the launch of the policy from the Government.

WILDAF Contribution in the development of Gender Bench Book on Women’s Rights: During the development of Gender Bench Book, Tanzania Women Judges Association entrusted WILDAF to gather views from Women’s Rights Organizations. WILDAF organized consultative meetings with Women’s Rights Organizations and submitted recommendations to TAWJA. The book has become the first bench book on women’s rights providing an accessible, user friendly reference guide for judicial officers in protecting the rights of women and girls in judicial processes.

25 Years of Advancing Women’s Rights through Legal Aid Services Provision

WILDAF has been assisting women, girls and marginalized groups to access justice through provision legal aid services. Our Emergency Response System has been significant in saving lives of women and girls victims of violence. Dedicated team of staff members, have tirelessly been responding and rescuing girls from early marriages, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), wrongful confinement, support matrimonial and probate proceedings to protect the rights to property amongst women and girls.





In course of provision of legal aid referrals are made to Police, National Prosecution Service, Judiciary, Health and Social Welfare departments to ensure proper support is provided to clients and perpetrators of violence are held accountable. WiLDAF Toll Free Line and GBV Taarifa App facilitates easy reporting of cases by victims/survivors who are unable to physically report to our offices. During the course of writing of this report, WiLDAF legal aid services has served a total of 12,664 people (6,061 males and 6,603 females). While legal education programs have reached 211,711 people (60,990 males 150,721 females).

Our stories of change

Creating He For She Champion

WiLDAF has transformed mind sets and created male champions through the Rule of Law and Access to Justice Programs supported by USAID.

Mr. Selemani Bishagazi is a man, making a difference in his community. As the leader of Kipunguni Paralegal Centre, Selemani fights to end Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). Recognizing that this is not only a women's rights but also an economic issue, he has come up with new, sustainable, income-generat-

ing opportunities for women previously who made a living from FGM. At the gardens in Kipunguni, former FGM cutters (ngariba) now earn a living by growing and selling vegetables and grow enough to feed themselves and their families.

Bishagazi and 24 other people were trained by WiLDAF to become paralegals. Later, WiLDAF supported the establishment of the Kipunguni Paralegal Centre, where he has instilled change and believes that the community has the power to end all forms of violence against women and children.

Kipunguni Paralegal Centre is based in Kipunguni Ward, Ilala District in Dar es Salaam Region with high rates of FGM and child marriage. The centre has been key in advocating for ending FGM and GBV in the area and providing referral services to victims to safe houses and other law enforcement organs. The good work done by Kipunguni Paralegal Centre led Mr. Bishagazi has enable the organization to be recognized as champions of ending GBV in 2020. During the annual anti GBV Awards ceremony organized during the 16 Days of Activism campaign. Kipunguni Paralegal Centre has also been able to attract the attention of government dignitaries and Development Partners who visit the centre to learn community activism. Recently the centre has been visited by the Minister for Community Development Gender and Children, Honourable Dorothy Gwajima and UN Women Global Executive Director, Sima Bahous.

As a male champion for gender equality and women empowerment, the community recognised his efforts and honoured him by naming the street where Bishagazi resides as 'Mwanaharakati Street' loosely translated as 'Activist Street'.

Against All Odds

WiLDAF has empowered community through awareness for mind-set shift on normalizing gender based violence through support of Irish Aid.

Imani* grew up in an environment where violence was normalized. Her father often beat people in front of her and her mother and refused to provide for the smallest of things. One night, when she was 7 years old, she was raped. It was a traumatic experience she had to undergo alone for so many years as she could never tell her parents for fear that they would beat



her up for it. While she was studying at Jacaranda* Secondary School in Dar es Salaam Region, WiLDAF introduced the Mawio club at the school and she was fortunate enough to be one of the club members.

“From the first day I joined the Mawio Club, my entire mind-set on GBV completely changed. Mawio Club served as a safe space for me because I was once a victim of GBV. In the time when I was a member of the club, I was able to develop dreams to be somewhere better in the future. It has been my pleasure to be a member of the Mawio Club because it has opened doors for me and allowed me to see the world in a different perspective” she said.

“Now I am at the University of Dar es Salaam studying for a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology. My decision to take Sociology was inspired by being a member of Mawio Club because I want to help people as a champion of GBV prevention. I know that many Tanzanian girls have been victims and violated by people close to them and I am certain that by studying Sociology, I will be in a position to positively impact society through my knowledge and skills”

Says Imani*, one of beneficiaries of WiLDAF’s Mawio Clubs

*(*Name has been changed to protect the identity of the student)*

Mawio are clubs that have been founded by WiLDAF Tanzania with an aim of empowering young girls and boys in preventing and responding to Gender-Based Violence. Mawio clubs have been a safe space for young boys and girls in Tanzania to learn and discuss their rights and norms which promote zero tolerance to GBV. The clubs have also been used to instil self-esteem amongst members, in particular girls so that they are able to excel in their studies and become successful in their future careers.

Riding to Change

WiLDAF empowers community for social transformation on women leadership to increase the number of women in political participation. Wanawake Sasa Project Supported by UN Women



Mr. Zamoyoni George Mwololo is a father of four (4) children and a motorcycle rider from Kongwa District, Dodoma Region. He received training on women political participation. He was enlightened on the discriminatory gender norms and practices that hinder women from equally participating in leadership compared to their male counterparts. These include discrimination with regard to access to and ownership of land, capital, collateral, and conventions, due to traditional beliefs. He learnt that one of the key reasons why women in Kongwa are underrepresented in politics is lack of resources to effectively campaign and compete for leadership positions.

Mr. Mwololo became is one of the *Wanawake Sasa Champions*. He advocated for women's rights issues to be included in their bodaboda group Constitution. Following that they agreed to protect women and children at family levels and during their bodaboda duties. Working together with the paralegals in Kongwa district, they assist women facing GBV and encouraging them to participate in leadership. Many women are more comfortable reporting incidents of violence to them. Zamoyoni bodaboda group is now respected in Kongwa District, the community members have recognized them as a referral group.

“The group has brought transformational change in the community; GBV cases are now being reported and several women contested for office in the past 2020 general elections. This is a good sign that attitudes of men towards women leadership is shifting for the better in Kongwa.” Zamoyoni stated.

Overcoming Stereotypes

Rachel Ngassa, 34 years is a Religious Leader in Ushirombo, Bukombe District, in Geita Region. A female pastor and a single mother of one. She is a *Wanawake Sasa Champion* recruited by 'Wanawake Sasa' project under the support of UN Women. She has devoted her time to promoting gender equality in her community, especially amongst her congregation.

“Here I am today! I have been able to understand my rights as a result of the Wanawake Sasa Project, and now I have decided to be a women's rights activist, particularly focusing on our Revelation congregation church to influence more women to take up leadership roles. My life has changed, and



have started a special program in the church where we have leadership sessions with young women from Igulwa, Ubalози, and Busanda localities. I encourage them to be pastors like me, despite the challenges they face in the community.” She said.

Pastor Rachel received WiLDAF’s training on women’s rights and women participation in political leadership. She now uses her influence as a pastor to engage with political parties and government leaders for women participation in leadership. She is a strong mobilizer of women and girls, empowering them to know their rights. She is respected and a lot of women look up to her in her community.

Breaking Gender Barriers

Farida Muro, 43 years of age, a Muslim religious leader, in Kijota Ward, Singida Rural District is also a *Wanawake Sasa Champion*. Though women are capable and effective leaders, many use ‘religious reasons’ to block women’s advancement in leadership and political participation.



The trainings and awareness raising sessions conducted by WILDAF in the 'Wanawake Sasa' project under the support of UN Women encouraged her and more women in her community to contest and run for political office during the 2020 general elections. The training gave them tools to overcome obstacles in the election process. Her story is a story of resilience.

"In 2020, I decided to run for the Ward Councillors position in Mudida Ward, Singida Rural District. I was the only woman contestant among 10 contestants. Despite the fact that I didn't win the election, I came in third. This is great progress to me and women in my community. I believe that I have set the momentum for women aspiring for political leadership in my community and hopefully in coming elections more women will contest." Farida says.

Taking the Lead to fight GBV During COVID-19 Pandemic

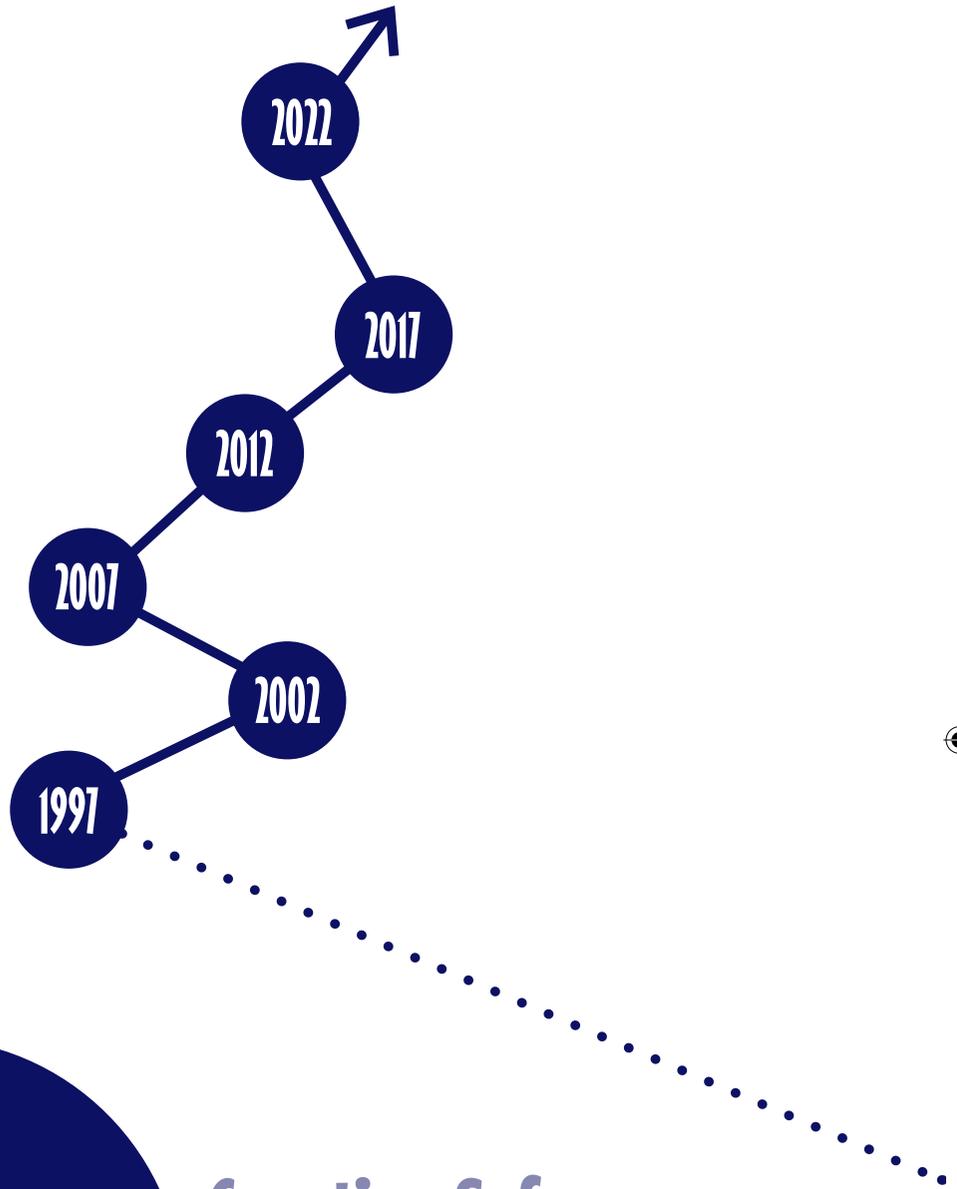
COVID-19 profoundly affected the lives of young women and girls. The containment measures such as school closures, travel restrictions and physical distancing made it difficult for girls to access social services and support that protected them from child marriage, unwanted pregnancy and gender-based violence.



WiLDAF with the support of the Embassy of Finland stepped up its emergency response system receiving and providing referral to cases of GBV. In one particular incidence in April 2020. When the schools closed due to COVID19, Maria* a 15 year old studying at Bahari* Secondary School thought that she would be safe in her parents' home. Shocking her parents took the opportunity to marry her off, forcing her to drop out of school. With the help of the neighbours who saw cows (dowry) being brought it, WiLDAF emergency response department was notified in time and with the help of Police 30 minutes after she was married off, Maria* was rescued and taken to a safe house. This is one among many girls and women supported by WiLDAF during COVID19 pandemic.

Further WiLDAF was able to secure funding from the Foundation for Civil Society (FCS) to conduct a campaign named "Wafikie Bila Kukusanyika". It was rolled out in Maria*'s neighbourhood one of the hotspots of FGM and child marriage in Dar es Salam. It aimed to help protect girls. The campaign also provided safety equipments such as masks and entrepreneurship training to young women who were unable to work as a result of the pandemic containment measures. (*Names have been changed to protect the identity of the student).





CHAPTER
B

Creating Safer
Spaces for Solidarity
and Collective Voices

25 Years of Women Movement Building

WiLDAF as a Pan African networking organization, believes in solidarity, partnership and complementarity. Its spirit of advocacy is through networking, movement and coalition building for achievement of generation equality. This part highlights WiLDAF successes in coalition and women movement building.



Tanzania Network of Legal Aid Providers (TANLAP)

Formation of Tanzania Network of Legal Aid Providers (TANLAP) was WiLDAF brainchild under its Rule of Law and Access to Justices Program supported by USAID. The network was formed to build the capacity of legal aid providing institutions, harmonize legal aid services, ensure ethical conduct of legal aid providers and build a collective forum for participation in policies and legal reforms.

The founding legal aid providers included Women in Law and Development in Africa (WiLDAF), The Disabled Organization for Legal Affairs and Social Economic Development (DOLASED). The Comprehensive Community Based Rehabilitation in Tanzania (CCBRT), Lawyers Environmental Action in Tanzania (LEAT), Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC), Tanzania Women Lawyers Association (TAWLA), Women's Legal Aid Centre (WLAC) and National Organization for Legal Assistance (NOLA).

TANLAP at the beginning was housed within WILDAF offices. However with growth and expansion of the network, it has transformed to an independent organization with its own offices and programs on access to justice. TANLAP engaged greatly and strengthened CSOs movement in advocating for the Legal Aid Act, 2017.

GBV MKUKI Coalition

GBV MKUKI Coalition's was established in 2009. Its key role is to influence collective voice in addressing GBV at national, regional and international levels. The coalition provides an opportunity for members to promote women's rights and support actions of the coalition and of individual organizations to end GBV.

GBV MKUKI Coalition has successfully responded to cases and incidences at community level. Members are able to share cases and receive support based on each members expertise to ensure victims of violence receive adequate services. During the COVID-19 pandemic the coalition was instrumental in galvanising collective actions. Ensuring women and girls are at the centre of response strategies. The movement developed a position statement which informed the Government on the need to strengthen GBV prevention and responses as pandemic was unfolding.

The Coalition has become instrumental in amplifying the movement of the 16 Days of Activism Campaign against gender based violence. Also provision of support in the implementation of National Plan of Action to End Violence Against Women and Children (NPA-VAWC).

Kikosi kazi cha Kutetea Haki za Mirathi (KIKUHAMI)

WILDAF also coordinates KIKUHAMI, a network of 21 Women's Rights Organizations championing for review of the Customary Laws of Inheritance of 1963. This taskforce was formed as a result of WILDAF East African sub regional workshop in 1996 with members from Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, Sudan and Tanzania. Each participating chapter was asked to choose one issue that is affecting women's rights in their countries. WILDAF Tanzania chose the issue of Inheritance as a major area of concern to work upon. Tanzania, members decided to join force and invited other women's rights organization outside WILDAF circle, thus KIKUHAMI was formed in 2000.

The task force since then has been able to publish researches on the impact of discriminatory customary laws of inheritance to women and girls. KIKUHAMI



has also developed model inheritance law and conducted engagement with high level leaders such as Hon. Dr. Asha Rose Migiro (when she was minister for Gender and Community Development), Hon. Bakari Mwapachu (when he was Minister of Constitution and Legal Affairs) among others.

In solidarity, WLAC one of KIKUHAMI members also explored strategic litigation option in the case of *Elizabeth Stephen and Salome Charles Vs. The Attorney General, Civil Appeal No.4 of 2007 (Unreported)*. WLAC also tabled the matter to CEDAW committee where the Government was instructed to among other things; abolish all discriminatory customary laws to conform with the state obligation under the CEDAW convention. Up to the time of the writing of this report the law has not changed.

Civil Society Organization's (CSOs) Women Directors Forum

CSOs Women Directors Forum (CWDF) is a dynamic transformative women leadership platform that is supported by Women Fund Trust. The forum aims at creating a free and safe space for Civil Society Organizations Women Directors. To build collective voices, promote intergeneration and peer learning, and revitalise feminist and women's movement in Tanzania. Currently, the forum has 103 members from the regions of Dar es Salaam, Dodoma, Kilimanjaro, Lindi, Tanga, Mbeya, Morogoro, Kigoma, Shinyanga and Zanzibar.



The forum on 4th March 2022 launched the Her Story Journal (Queen Mothers) which seeks to take stock and document achievements of women leaders in the formation and work in the field of human and women's rights and equality. The book also provide insights to facilitate intergenerational learning.

During COVID-19, the forum successfully engaged with the Bank of Tanzania to influence strategic actions to mitigate COVID-19 the economic impact to women. The engagement yielded in raising of daily allowable withdrawal and transfer rates in mobile money and Automatic Teller Machine (ATM).

The forum further in September 2022 launched a mentorship program to promote intergenerational learning and networking for stronger and sustainable women movement in Tanzania.

Working Group Two (WG2)

Working Group Two (WG2) was formed under the Data Driven Advocacy (DDA). It is a network of 21 organizations working on women, youth, children and people with disability. WG2 organizations have been strengthened to effectively use data and evidence based in advocacy activities.

The network was instrumental in the review of HIV/AIDS (Prevention and Control) Act of 2008. The law whereby now permits a persons from the age of 15 to voluntarily get HIV/AIDS tested without seeking permission from his/her guardians.

Voice Tanzania-Linking and Learning

WiLDAF through the generous support from Voice Global is facilitating and leading a linking and learning network with 35 voice grantees and Voice rights holders hailing from the regions of Dar es Salaam, Mara, Morogoro, Njombe, Arusha and Zanzibar. This aims at creating a safe and inclusive space where rights holders will have opportunities to learn about their projects, explore empowerment and influence approaches.

Since its inception in February 2022, the ongoing program envisions to continue organising learning platforms for all voice grantees and other stakeholders. It also envisions enhancing and securing space for participation of marginalized groups and communities in national development processes and amplifying their messages in different media.



16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence Campaign

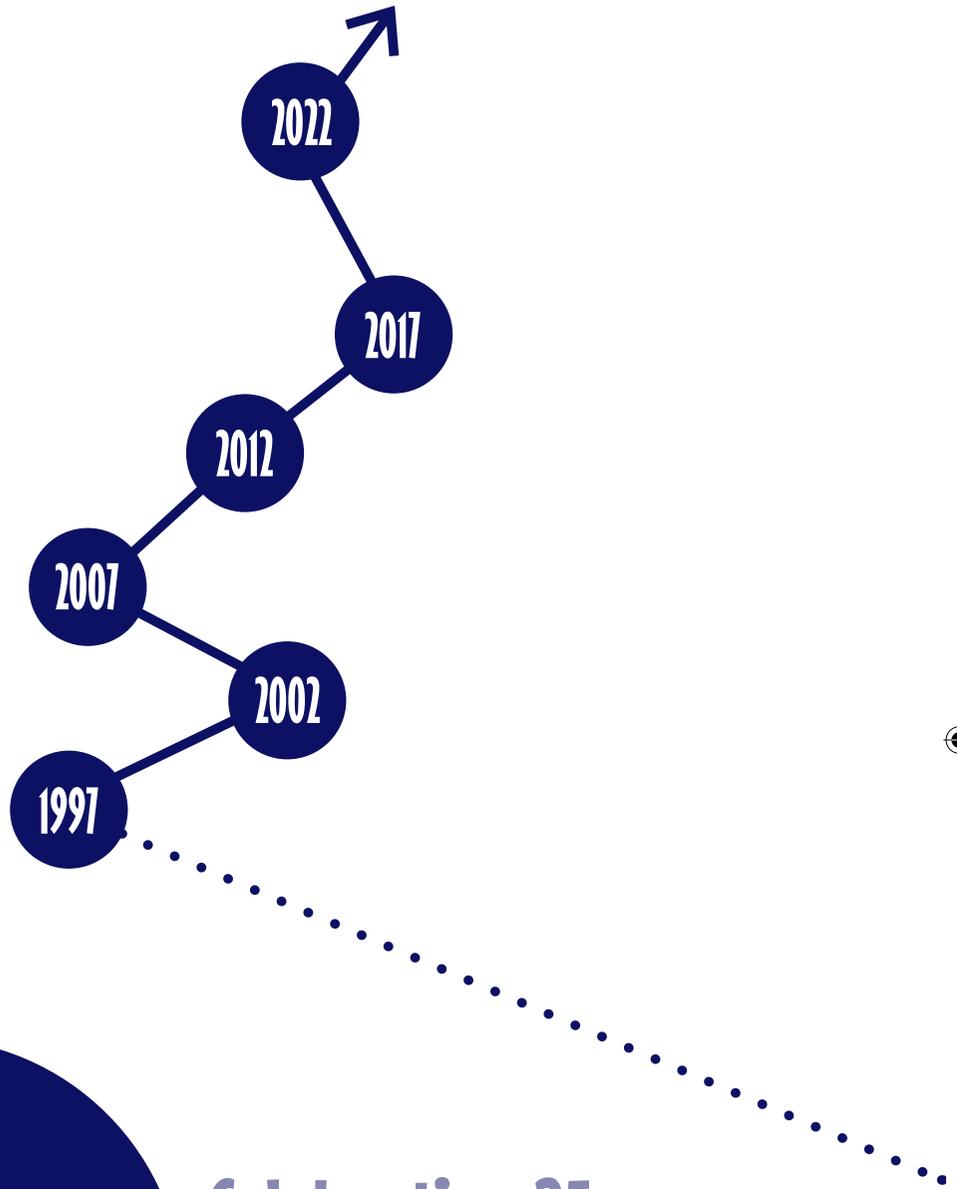
WiLDAF proudly celebrates 25 Years while celebrating 26 years of coordinating the Movement for the 16 Days of Activism Campaign Against Gender-Based Violence. As it speaks for itself, the 16 Days was the first project WiLDAF started even before its registration in 1997. With marching of 20 women only to raise awareness on effects of gender based violence. The campaign has now transformed to become the largest GBV movement with over 18,483 people (8,452 female, 10,031 male) reached directly and 17,139,281 reached with advocacy messages through social media in the 2021 campaign alone.



The campaign has brought activism from national to local levels. WiLDAF is currently witnessing CSOs commemorating the campaign throughout the country. Organizations and communities taking action to end GBV in their communities with grassroots initiatives transforming to become yearlong initiatives.

The campaign has also been key in strengthening strategies on prevention and response of GBV. For example, the establishment of Police Gender and Children Desks, launch of the Police Form Number 3 (PF3). Together with the recent development of Guidelines on the Establishment, Operationalization and Monitoring of Gender Desks in Higher and Tertiary Learning Institutions.





CHAPTER
4

Celebrating 25 years
of Partnership and
Collaboration

WILDAF 25 years journey would have not been possible without the good support from the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania and our partners. In a very specific way, we would like to recognize and appreciate the support from the following Government Ministries and Development Partners.



Government of Tanzania Ministries and Departments

1. The Ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs
2. The Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women, and Special Groups
3. The Ministry of Home Affairs
4. The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology

5. The Ministry of Finance and Planning
6. The Ministry of Health
7. The Ministry of Lands, Housing, and Human Settlements Development
8. The President's Office Regional Administration and Local Government
9. The Prime Minister's Office Policy and Parliamentary Affairs
10. The Prime Minister's Office of State for Labour, Employment, Youth and Persons with Disabilities
11. The Judiciary of Tanzania
12. The Parliament of Tanzania
13. The Director of Public Prosecution Office
14. The Office of the Registrar of Political Parties
15. The Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance (CHRAGG)



WiLDAF acknowledges the generous support of our long-time partnership with Embassies, UN Agencies and Philanthropist organization in our 25 years journey.

Embassies



The Embassy of the United States of America

For donating WiLDAF's very first Photocopier.



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha
Department of Foreign Affairs

The Embassy of Ireland

For being a loyal WiLDAF supporter and believer in unconventional ventures like the 16 Days of Activism Campaign Against Gender Based Violence and support of the GBV MKUKI Coalition establishment.



The Embassy of Finland

For supporting WiLDAF strategic plan for the years 2022-2026. The Embassy also continues to support WiLDAF through UNFPA's *Chaguo Langu*, *Haki Yangu* project.



The Embassy of Denmark

For their dedication and support of the 16 Days of Activism Campaign and promoting awards to acknowledge and support grassroots activism.



Sweden
Sverige

The Embassy of Sweden

For supporting activities under the new strategic plan 2022-2026 through Save the Children.



Embassy of the
Kingdom of the Netherlands

The Embassy of Netherland

For supporting the 16 Days of Activism Campaign Against Gender Based Violence.





The European Union

For supporting the 16 Days of Activism Campaign Against Gender Based Violence in recognition of Anti Gender Based Violence Champions.

UN Agencies



The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)

For Supporting *Wanawake Sasa* Project working with communities to change perceptions and mindset on women participation in leadership. UN Women also supports the 16 Days of Activism Campaign Against Gender Based Violence.



The United Nations Population Fund Agency (UNFPA)

For supporting a three years Project My Choice, My Rights which focuses on advancing and promoting the rights of women and girls, particularly women and girls with disabilities, to live a life free from gender-based violence and harmful practices - child marriage and FGM.



The International Labour Organization (ILO)

For supporting the movement championing the ratification of the ILO Convention No.190 of 2019 on violence and harassment in the world of work.

Development Partners



German Development Services

For supporting WiLDAF with their first computer after acquiring an office space at SIDO building.



Foundation for Civil Society (FCS)

For supporting WiLDAF since 2003 and for reinventing WiLDAF from a small to medium scale fund organization. FCS through their strategic fund



gave WiLDAF wings to soar from a two-office rental space to owning their own office building.



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

For supporting WiLDAF for sixteen years and for being their number one cheerleader in Women access to justice, legal aid services and advocacy for review of laws and policies. USAID support continues with the 16 Days of Activism Campaign Against GBV and Mwanamke Imara Project.



Irish Aid

Irish Aid

Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

For their support in combating Gender Based Violence, WiLDAF Strategic Plan 2002 to 2017 and support in establishment of Police Gender and Children Desks.



The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)

For their supports through KPMG International Development Advisory Limited the review of the Political Parties Act and the National Election Act as well as facilitating eight political parties to develop gender policies and implementation strategy.



Legal Services Facility

For supporting the 'Wanawake na Ajira' project to promote access to justice for women working in industries and the continuous support in the 16 Days of Activism Campaign Against Gender Based Violence as well as Review of the Customary Law of Inheritance and the Law of Marriage Act of 1971.



Freedom House and Pact Tanzania

For supporting WiLDAF through Data Driven Advocacy (DDA) that sought to use data to advocate for gender sensitive laws and policies improving the lives of women, children, youth and People with Disabilities.



Women Fund Trust (WFT)

For supporting women’s movement in Tanzania through the establishment and coordination of the CSO’s Women Directors Forum.



The African Women’s Development Fund (AWDF)

For supporting *Wanawake Sasa* project aimed at increasing women participation in leadership.



VOICE

For supporting the “*Connect and Amplified; Linking and Learning Facilitation*” which provides a platform for 35 Voice Tanzania grantees across Tanzania to share experiences and learn on project implementation and advocacy.



Raising Voices

For supporting women movement and GBV Prevention and Response interventions.

WiLDAF members, coalition and network partners

WiLDAF recognizes and values the contributions of our organizational and individual members as well as the networks and coalitions under WiLDAF’s coordination. Through their support, we have been able to amplify voices, bring changes and impact the lives of women and girls. While it is difficult to mention all of them, WiLDAF remains thankful and looks forward to another fruitful 25 years of advancing women’s rights in Tanzania.



WiLDAF Board Members 1998 - 2022

WILDAF FIRST BOARD MEMBERS 1998 - 2005

NO.	NAME	TITLE	FROM	TO
1.	Dr. Monica E. Mhoja	Chairperson	1998	2005
2.	Dr. Judith N. Odunga	Secretary to the Board	1998	2005
3	Adv. Nakzael Lukio Tenga	Board Member	1998	2005
4.	Dr. Helen Kijo -Bisimba	Board Member	1998	2005
5.	Ms. Agripina Mosha	Board Member	1998	2000
6	Ms. Mahfoudha A. Hamid	Board Member	1998	2000
7.	Ms. Asha Mzavas	Board Member	1998	2005
8.	Dr. Asha Rose Migiro	Board Member	1998	2005
9.	Ms. Joyce Mhavile	Board Member	1998	2000
10.	Adv. Tumaini Slaa	Board Member	1998	2005
11.	Adv. Tom Bahame Nyanduga	Board Member	2002	2005
12	Hon. Naomi M. Kihula	Board Member	2005	2005



WILDAF SECOND BOARD MEMBERS 2006 - 2007

NO.	NAME	TITLE	FROM	TO
1.	Dr. Rose Shayo	Chairperson	2006	2007
2.	Dr. Judith N. Odunga	Secretary to the Board	2006	2007
3	Adv. Nakzael Lukio Tenga	Board Member	2006	2007
4.	Dr. Helen Kijo - Bisimba	Board Member	2006	2007
5	Ms. Mahfoudha A. Hamidu	Board Member	2006	2007
6.	Adv. Tumaini Slaa	Board Member	2006	2007
7.	Adv. Tom Bahame Nyanduga	Board Member	2006	2007
8.	Hon. Naomi M. Kaihula	Board Member	2006	2007

WILDAF THIRD BOARD MEMBERS 2007 - 2018

NO.	NAME	TITLE	FROM	TO
1.	Hon. Naomi M. Kaihula	Chairperson	2007	2018
2.	Dr. Judith N. Odunga	Secretary to the Board	2007	2018
3	Adv. Nakazael Lukio Tenga	Board Member	2007	2018
4.	Dr. Helen Kijo - Bisimba	Board Member	2007	2008
5.	Adv. Tumaini Slaa	Board Member	2007	2018
7.	Adv. Tom Bahame Nyanduga	Board Member	2007	2018
8.	Prof. Rose Shayo	Board Member	2007	2018
9.	Ms. Edda Mariki	Board Member	2009	2018
10	Judge Lucia Kairo	Board Member	2009	2018

WILDAF FOURTH BOARD MEMBERS 2018 - 2020

NO.	NAME	TITLE	FROM	TO
1.	Hon. Naomi Kaihula	Chairperson	2018	2020
2.	Adv. Anna M. Kulaya	Secretary to the Board	2018	2020
3	Adv. Nakazael Lukio Tenga	Board Member	2018	2020
4.	CPA (T) Gervas Lufingo	Board Member	2018	2020
4.	Prof. Rose Shayo	Board Member	2018	2020
5.	Adv. Lulu Urrio	Board Member	2020	2020
6.	Adv. Ebenezer Mshana	Board Member	2020	2020

WILDAF FIFTH BOARD MEMBERS 2020 - Todate

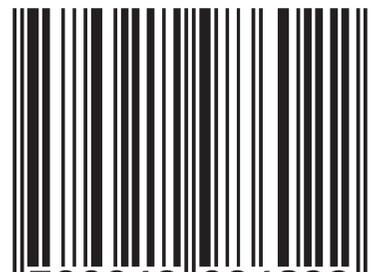
NO.	NAME	TITLE	FROM	TO
1.	Dr. Monica E. Mhoja	Chairperson	2020	Todate
2.	Adv. Anna M. Kulaya	Secretary to the Board	2020	Todate
3.	CPA (T) Gervas Lufingo	Board Member	2020	Todate
4	Adv. Lulu Urrio	Board Member	2020	Todate
5.	Adv. Ebenezer Mshana	Board Member	2020	Todate
6.	Dr. Clement Mashamba	Board Member	2021	Todate
7.	Dr. Astronaut Bagile	Board Member	2021	Todate







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