



Women in Law & Development in Africa

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Mikocheni A, Chwaku street
Tel: 022 2701995
www.wildaftanzania.or.tz





Table of Contents

Abbreviation and Acronyms 2

Message from WiLDAF National Coordinator 4

Part I: ABOUT WILDAF 4

1.0. Our History 4

1.1. Our Vision and Mission 4

1.2. Our Values 4

1.3. Our Geographical Coverage 4

1.4. Summary of Annual Report 4

1.5. Contribution of WiLDAF to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 5

Part II: OUR 2022 ACHIEVEMENTS, LESSON LEARNED, CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES 6

2.0. Summary of the Key Achievements 6

Thematic Area 1: Accessibility to Justice Among Women, Girls, Children and other Citizens 6

Thematic Area 2: Advocacy for the Enactment of Policies and Laws that are Gender Responsive 8

Thematic Area 3: Scale Up Awareness of Women's Rights to Reduce Violence against Women and Girls 11

Thematic Area 4: Enhanced Women Political Participation and Decision Making 16

Thematic Area 6: Institutional Strengthening 21

PART III: CHALLENGES, LESSON LEARNED AND OPPORTUNITIES 23

3.0. Challenges 23

3.0. Lesson Learned 24

3.1. Opportunities 25

4. CONCLUSION 25

Abbreviation and Acronyms

ADA	TADEA African Democratic Alliance
AAFP	Alliance of Africa Farmers' Party
ADC	Alliance for Democratic Change
ACT	Wazalendo Alliance for Constitution and Transparency -Wazalendo
AIDS	Acquired ImmunoDeficiency Syndrome
CCM	Chama cha Mapinduzi
CUF	Civic United Front
CCK	Chama cha Kijamii
CHAUMA	Chama cha Ukombozi wa Umma
CLHY	Chaguo Langu Haki Yangu
CPP	Council of Political Parties
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
CWCA	Centre for Widows and Children Assistance
DC	District Council
DPOs	
EMBs	Electoral Management Bodies
ERS	Emergence Response System
FADeV	Foundation for ASM Development
FBOs	Faith Based Organizations
FCS	Foundation for Civil Society
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
FY	Financial Year
GBV	Gender Based Violence
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
KPMG	Klynveld Peat Marwick Goerdeler
LGAs	Local Government Aunthorities
LSF	Legal Service Facility
LRCT	Law Reform Commission of Tanzania
LRCZ	Law Reform Commission of Zanzibar

MI	Mwanamke Imara
MCDGWSG	Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups
MoCLA	Ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs
MoET	Ministry of Employment and Training
MoF	Ministry of Finance
NEC	National Election Commission
NDI	National Democratic Institute
NPA-VAWC	National Plan of Action to end Violence Against Women and Children
ORPP	Office of Registrar of Political Parties
PGCD	Police Gender and Children Desk
PORALG	President Office Regional Administration and Local Government
SADC	Southern Africa Developing Countries
SMS	SADC Member States
SHDEPHA+	Service, Health, and Development for People living with HIV/AIDS
SRHR	Sexual Reproductive Health Rights
TANLAP	Tanzania Network for Legal Aid Providers
TCRS	Tanganyika Christian Refugee Service
TPF-NET	Tanzania Police Force Network
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VAWP/E	Violence Against Women in Politics/Election
VETA	Vocational Education and Training Authority
WFT	Women Fund Tanzania
WiLDAF	Women in Law and Development in Africa
WROs	Women Rights Organizations



Message from WILDAF National Coordinator

The end of 2023 marks another milestone in WILDAF advocacy work. This year is very important into our organizational history as it marked 26th year of our operations here in Tanzania and the beginning of our new five years strategic plan (2023-2027). As we do the reflection, we boast on the achievements and impact of our interventions have on the lives of women and girls. Through the use of law we have been able to bring changes and move the gender equality agenda forward. However, we remain conscious of the unmet targets in particular on ensuring country's effective adherence to the International and Regional Instruments. Being aware of our founding story which began during the 1983 Nairobi Conference on Women and climaxed with the Beijing Conference of 1995, we have reignited our agenda of promoting country's adherence to its promises under the international and regional laws.

Moving forward in 2024, we dedicate our efforts to put women and girls at the center economic reforms and poverty reduction. We take note of Her Excellency President Samia Suluhu Hassan commitments under the Generation Equality Forum; and gearing up to support transforming this aspiration into reality.

As you read this annual report, I invite you all to subscribe to our digital platforms, through our **@WILDAFTz** handles on Instagram, Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn; Funguka App available on Android and Ios; and Website. As said in the preceding paragraphs of this remark, we are determined to inspire young generation to take over the movement. As such our commitment is to ensure we enrich young generation with feminist knowledge through youth friendly and accessible channels.

Advocate. Anna Kulaya
National Coordinator, WILDAF

Part I: ABOUT WILDAF

1.0. Our History

The year 2023 marked 26 year of Women in Law and Development in Africa (WiLDAF) operations in Tanzania since its establishment in 1997. Being a Pan African women's rights network, WiLDAF is dedicated to promoting and strengthening strategies that link law and development to increase women's participation and influence at the community, national, region and international levels. It was founded in February 1990 in Harare Zimbabwe – following the NGO forum held within the context of the UN Decade for women and whose theme was "Women rights and Development: Network for Empowerment in Africa". Since then, the organization has established chapters in 26 African countries, including Tanzania, constituting over 350 organizations and 3,000 individuals who share these objectives.

Throughout WiLDAF has amassed an excellent track record to advance women's rights and their status in Tanzania. This is because gender equality is not only a fundamental right, but also a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous, and sustainable world.



1.1. Our Vision and Mission



Vision

WiLDAF envisions 'A just society that embraces gender equality and women's rights'.



Mission

The mission of WiLDAF is "Enhancing women empowerment and equality through law, networking and advocacy in all aspects of development".

1.2. Our Values

As a law and development organization valuing women empowerment, we value and seek inspiration from the following tenets:

1. Accountability



2. Inclusivity



3. Solidarity



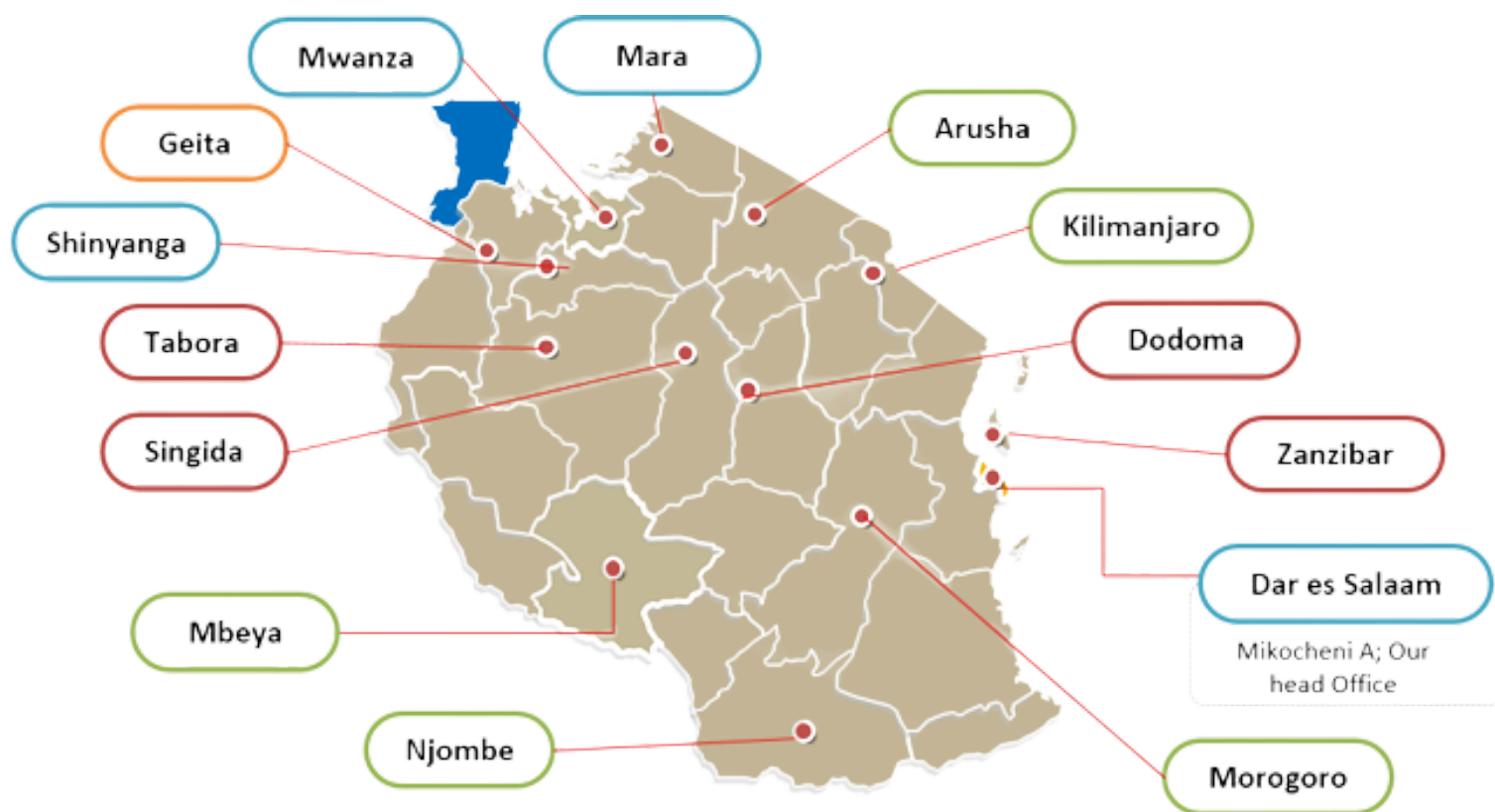
4. Dignity



5. Volunteerism



1.3. Our Geographical Coverage



1.4. WiLDAF's Work on Sustainable Development Goals



Goal 1: No Poverty: End Poverty in all its forms everywhere

WiLDAF programs contribute to this SDG by ensuring women have equal rights to economic resources, ownership and control over land, inheritance, natural resources and finances which in turn contribute to improvements of livelihood. Access to decent, safe and conducive working environment equally responds to initiatives to eliminate poverty.



GOAL 5: Gender Equality: achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Substantive part of WiLDAF's programs and interventions contribute towards realization of goal number 5. This is through advocating for women rights to access, own and use resources (particularly land), women and leadership intervention to ensure women and girls are effectively participate in leadership and decision-making process at all level as well as ensuring women and girls access sexual and reproductive health rights services.



Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic growth

WiLDAF interventions on increasing conducive and favorable working conditions to women and youth working in industries contribute to realization of goal 8. The program has been designed in the line with the ILO convention 190 on Violence and harassment in the world of work.



Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

WiLDAF works to remove the barriers that keep women from accessing justice, such as gender bias, high legal costs, or lack of knowledge about their rights. This directly supports the goal of justice for all. By advocating for fair and inclusive laws, especially in areas like family law, inheritance, political participation, and protection from gender-based violence, WiLDAF helps make legal systems more responsive and inclusive.

The organization also strengthens women's participation in institutions by training women leaders, community advocates, and paralegals to engage with the justice system. This ensures that women's voices and experiences shape how justice is delivered. At the same time, WiLDAF provides legal aid and support to survivors of violence, which is central to building peaceful communities.

1.4. WiLDAF's Work on Sustainable Development Goals

1.5. WiLDAF's Work on the Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want



Pan African Women Rights Network, dedicated at strengthening strategies that link law and development to empower women and girls increase their influence and participation in social, economic and political development. Throughout WiLDAF endeavors to contribute in building prosperous Mother Africa. As such, our programs are designed to contribute in meeting our shared aspirations under the Agenda 2063 in Particular Aspiration 6: An Africa, whose development is people-driven, relying on the potential of African people, especially its women and youth, and caring for children.

Part II: OUR 2023 ACHIEVEMENTS, LESSON LEARNED, CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

In 2023, WiLDAF continued efforts in bringing women's rights and empowerment to the centre of government attention and community actions. Focusing on six key result areas, WiLDAF has engaged the government, development partners and communities in addressing issues of unequal power relations between women and men, as well as traditions, customs, values and norms that hinder women's and girls' fully realization of their rights.

The following part, will highlight WiLDAF impact in each of the said six key result areas.

1.0.Milestone as Per Thematic Area

Key Result Area 1: Increased Access to Justice for Women, Girls, and Other Marginalized Citizens

Increasing access to justice for women and girls is at the heart of WiLDAF programming for women empowerment and attainment of gender quality. Under this thematic focus, WiLDAF aims at supporting the country to build stronger legal and institutional frameworks that promote attainment of gender equality. On the same note, WiLDAF works to increase availability of quality legal support services for women and girls in particular survivors of violence.

In 2023, a total case of 1,203 have been supported in WiLDAF legal aid clinics in Dar es Salaam (Mikocheni, Kipunguni and Temeke One Stop Judicial Centre), Njombe and Shinyanga as well as mobile legal aid clinics under the Mama Samia Legal Aid Campaign. Analysis of cases supported indicates greater elements of GBV and land disputes across broader categories of cases that WiLDAF supports, including; matrimonial, child custody & maintenances, sexual violence, physical violence, probate, labour, protection and distribution of property. The calls for continuous commitment to amplify campaign on ending GBV and protection of women's land rights.

Breaking the Silence: Protecting Survivors and Pursuing Justice"

Amina Ramadhani and Asha Ramadhani (aged 10 and 11 respectively) reside with their mother and step father in Dar es Salaam. On a fateful day in May 2023 their step father, one Juma Hashimu barbarically raped the older girl when the mother was away on travel. The father threatened the girls to not tell anyone. On the return of their mother, the girls courageously informed her what had transpired. Blinded by love, their mother is persuaded by the husband to dismiss the matter and amicably solve and keep it a secret. A month later, these brave girls are able to tell the ordeal to their visiting aunt who confronted her sister and the brother in law. Unfortunately, the mother of the children defended her husband and persuaded her sister to not disclose the matter. Being aware of HIV+ status of her sister and brother in law, the aunt decided to take actions and prevent further abuse and risks of the children to become infected. The aunt called WiLDAF toll free line to report and seek assistance. Legal Officers were dispatched and with collaboration with police officers and social welfare officers intervened and rescued the girls. After treatment at the hospital, social welfare officers assisted to relocate them to a safe house where they reside now with close follow up on their health and wellbeing as police continues with further actions to arraign the father in the court of law.

NB: Real names and locations are concealed to protect the identities of survivors.

In efforts to increase access to justice for women and girls, WiLDAF has also been strengthening the capacity of paralegals, magistrates and police officers to provide adequate and quality services to survivors of violence. In 2023, WiLDAF empowered 32 (25 females and 7 males) police officers from Njombe, Kilimanjaro and Mbeya on handling of GBV cases. The program aimed at building cadre of police officers delivering quality services to survivors of violence including adequate investigation and collection of necessary evidence for prosecutions in the court of law.



Moreover, in 2023 WiLDAF strengthened and built capacity of 126 paralegals (62 females and 64 males) including four (4) paralegals with disabilities to provide legal education and legal aid in Tarime, Butiama, Kishapu, and Kahama Districts. Targeted paralegals were empowered with skills and knowledge to mobilize communities on the rights of women and girls in particular with disabilities. As a result, supported paralegals' legal education programs have reached more than 16,796 (8,120 females and 8,676 males) 351 of whom were people with disabilities, (189 males and 162 females) community members in the targeted wards of Tarime, Butiama, Kishapu, and Kahama. Legal education programs conducted by paralegals have proved effective in increasing knowledge at the grassroot levels and bringing out cases of abuse. As such, paralegal's legal aid cases account for 39% of the total legal aid cases supported by WiLDAF in the last quarter of 2023.

In regards to advocacy for review of discriminatory laws, in 2023 WiLDAF continued to champion for the review of Law of Marriage and enactment of the comprehensive GBV law. WiLDAF has deployed strategic engagements with Government leaders to persuade their support for the reforms. On the Law of Marriage, WiLDAF also collaborated with the Ministry of Constitution and Legal Affairs to hold public dialogue and persuade consensus on the minimum age for marriage. Although, reform bills are yet to be tabled to the parliament the engagements indicate some level of intentions to amend the law and abolish underage marriages.

In efforts to influence enactment of GBV law, WiLDAF has conducted a thorough review on the Efficiency of the Enforcement of the Penal Code [Cap 16 R.E. 2022] in Addressing Gender Based Violence Offences in Tanzania to highlight challenges thereof and persuade enactment of comprehensive Gender Based Violence Law. The outcome of the report has highlighted several issues including;

- 1.The Act does not recognize marital rape
- 2.The Act does not recognize attempted rape.
- 3.The Act support abduction when there is a will of parents/ custodians which influences child marriage to escape the criminal liability since the provision applies to unmarried girl under the age of 16 only.
- 4.The Act lays some loopholes in protecting imbecile women against rape and other sexual offences.
- 5.The issue of compensation to the victim (child) remains at the discretion of the Court disregarding the fact that children who went through sexual exploitation need psychological support in response to the trauma they experienced.
- 6.Time limitation of sexual harassment after expiration of 60 days after the occurrence of the event constituting the offence prevents survivors from accessing justice.
- 7.The Act does not show remedies on sodomy which will support victims especially children such as psychological support.

The findings will form basis for future engagements in 2024 to push for the reforms and enactment of GBV law.



1. Mwanamama
2. Mwanamama
3. Mwanamama
4. Mwanamama
5. Mwanamama
6. Mwanamama

Thematic Area 2: Scale Up Awareness of Women's Rights to Reduce Violence against Women and Girls

In 2023, WiLDAF continued to engage Government and its agencies, development partners, CSOs, paralegals, religious leaders, traditional leaders, teachers, students, women and youth to raise awareness on ending violence against women and children in Tanzania. Innovative strategies and approaches were used to scale up awareness on right based issues that affect women, girls and youth full enjoyment of their rights. The interventions and programs implemented under this thematic area intended to prevent and respond to GBV by strengthening GBV reporting systems and championing positive transformation in the community. The key interventions executed under this thematic area were;

1. Capacity Strengthening to GBV protection and response mechanisms to effectively address GBV

WiLDAF has continued to contribute on strengthening formal and informal structures to effectively address GBV. Capacity building trainings, learning and reflection meetings and refresher courses were conducted to empower matrons and matrons at shule salama clubs, parents, community leaders, paralegals, Children and Women Protection Committees (CWPC) with understandings and skills to address GBV.

To this end, WiLDAF has strengthened 17 Women and Children Protection Committees in Mara, Shinyanga, Njombe, Mbeya and Kilimanjaro to effectively discharge their functions and address VAWC in their locale. WiLDAF has further trained 51 community development officers, 14 social welfare officers and 25 ward executive officers from Shinyanga and Mara to conduct community dialogues to inspire transformation of norms and perceptions. The empowerment program included an intensive training on conducting productive conversations with diverse social groups in particular men and boys about the essence of gender equality. The targeted local government officers were further supported to conduct community dialogues in public spaces such as the market, vijiwe vya bodaboda (Motorcycle parking areas), vijiwe vya kahawa (Local tea and coffee stands), bus stands, to trigger conversations on positive social norms, values and practices that empowers women and girls of all abilities and prevent GBV, child marriage, FGM and discrimination against WGWDs. More than 26,711 (13,613 women, 13,098 men) among them 123 were people with disabilities (71 men and 52 women) participated in the community dialogues organized by empowered local leaders. Early analysis indicates significant successes of this initiative in building grassroot activism to end GBV. Field reports indicates that, across all 45 villages which were reached, they have incorporated GBV, FGM and early marriages permanent agenda in their regular village meetings. Further, all 45 villages which were reached have initiated processes for developing by-laws to increase protection to women and children in their respective areas. WiLDAF has taken the move as important step towards addressing violence at the local level.

WiLDAF has taken the move as important step towards addressing violence at the local level. WiLDAF has since supported initial conversations at the council levels to support formulation of the by-laws in the targeted period. More actions have been included in the coming year to ensure this initiative materializes to bring impact into the lives of women and girls.

In schools, WiLDAF has continued to support Shule Salama clubs in Dar es Salaam, Njombe, Mbeya, and Kilimanjaro. One of the unique feature of Shule Salama Clubs is that, it strategically on-boarded parents into the club activities to influence their active participation in changing narratives and increase protection against VAC. Throughout, the Shule Salama Clubs, parents have testified how the program was an eye opener on issues of VAC and they are now active taking all necessary actions to strengthen protection against VAC. These has been corroborated by teachers who have witnessed the increased collaborations with parents through the project activities. With many remarkable stories across all clubs evidencing this change, we pick Mzee Nyoka who is a clear demonstration of how parents have become active to end VAC.

Mzee Nyoka Champion of Ending Teenage Pregnancies

Robert Mmary now famously known as Mzee Nyoka, is among beneficiaries of the parent's empowerment program under Shule Salama Club in Mabogini Secondary School. Mr. Mmary has been dubbed 'Mzee Nyoka' by Bodaboda riders for his toughness in protecting school girls from men waiting on the roads to sexually harass and abuse them. Mabogini Secondary School is located at the outskirts of Moshi DC with students walking up to 4 Kilometers along bushy to get to school. One day boys and members of Shule Salama Clubs noticed their girls colleagues being harassed on the road and interacted to rescue them. The following day the report to Shule Salama Club Matron and Patron who immediately reached out to Mzee Nyoka as one of the parent champions. Upon receiving the information and being empowered under Shule Salama Parents Program, Mzee Nyoka uses his position as member of village council to call for a meeting and influencing passing of resolution to establish local monitoring and security system to watch over girls walking long distance to school. The motion was adopted and monitoring system was adopted whereby watchers have been placed throughout the road to protect girls and intervene to stop anyone trying to interact with girls for sexual advance or any form of harassment. Moreover, Mzee Nyoka has collaborated with teachers and parents whereby any girl or boy of school age is not allowed to loiter during school hours. Any child seen is required to show a permit from teachers allowing them to be out of class. Mzee Nyoka's efforts have contributed to decrease of sexual violence and dropping of teenage pregnancies from 4 when the club was being established to zero at the moment, for girls are now safe and not lured into sexual activities.



(i) 16 Days of Activism Campaign to end Gender Based Violence (GBV)

WiLDAF has utilized the commemoration of the 16 Days of Activism to promote social activism in ending GBV. The 2023 campaign brought immense success across different levels. The campaign was able to directly reach **10,946** (**4,778** Male and **6,168** Female) through different activities commemorated during the campaign. Moreover, the 2023 campaign reached more than **15 million** citizens with advocacy messages through hashtags such as **#ZuiaUkatili**, **#16DaysTz**, **#16DaysOfActivism**, **#Siku16**. In a specific way, the **#ZuiaUkatiliWaKijinsia** reached more than **8.8million** people. More than 2,000 people participated in the twibbonize campaign with messages shared on various platforms such as whatsapp, twitter, facebook and Instagram. On the other hand, traditional media including TV, Radio and Newspapers coverage reached more than 20 million citizens with messages for supporting changes to end GBV in all its forms.

With wide number of people reached, the campaign was also able to influence commitments from the Government to implement effective measures to eliminate violence against women and children in the country. For instance, during the national launch of the campaign, Honorable Dorothy Gwajima was quoted reiterating the Government commitment to expediate the development National Plan of Action to End Violence Against Women and Children. Responding to GBV MKUKI Coalition campaign asks, Honorable Gwajima tasked the Ministry's Permanent Secretary to organize a technical meeting with Permanent Secretaries from respective ministries and submit the report to her about the viability of their implementation.



This year successes are attributed to effective strategies designed to put communities and grassroots activism at the centre of the 2023 campaign. Additionally, the campaign focused on younger generation of boys in particular the famous group of motorcyclists 'bodaboda' who could play vital role to spread messages as well as report incidences of violence.

In efforts to bring the campaign closer to communities and inspire grassroots activism, GBV MKUKI Coalition organized Anti-GBV Caravan being part of commemorating the campaign. The Anti-GBV Caravan was made possible through generous support and contributions from the Embassy of Switzerland and USAID (through PACT Tanzania). The Anti-GBV Caravan visited and held community dialogues in 8 regions namely; Gairo - Morogoro, Bahi - Dodoma, Manyoni - Singida, Igunga - Tabora, Bukoba urban-Kagera, Kakonko - Kigoma, Chato - Geita and Tarime - Mara enriching targeted communities with messages on GBV and promoting community activism in partnership with local leaders who formed integral parts of the caravan.



The Anti-GBV caravan community dialogues targeted women and youth in markets, public transport (daladala) stations, Motorcyclists (bodaboda) and tricycle (bajaji) points. These are areas that lead to violent incidences in public domain requiring special attention. Also, given the number of people motorcyclists interact with every day, making them champions for gender equality has multiplier effects towards eliminating violence in the private domain as well.

The caravan also targeted mosques and churches to mobilize support from religious leaders in ending GBV. Successfully, the campaign reached and established Anti-GBV clubs in 17 motorcycle stands 'vijiwe vya bodaboda', 7 markets, 5 mosques and 4 churches.



Table 1: Data of established anti- GBV Networks at Bodaboda hangouts

No.	District	Number of Bodaboda Hangouts	Number of Riders	Number of Ant—GBV clubs established
1.	Gairo	3	87	3
2.	Bahi	2	35	2
3.	Manyoni	3	67	3
4.	Igunga	2	36	2
5.	Bukoba	2	37	2
6.	Chato	2	34	2
7.	Kakonko	3	88	3
8.	Tarime	-	-	-
TOTALS		17	384	17

Table 2: Data of established networks of anti-GBV Clubs at the Markets

No.	District	Number of Traders reached	Males	Females	People with Disabilities (PWDs)	Number of ant-GBV Clubs established
1.	Gairo	200	80	120	1	1
2.	Bahi	248	100	148	2	1
3.	Manyoni	306	123	183	1	1
4.	Igunga	360	144	216	-	1
5.	Bukoba	400	120	280	5	1
6.	Chato	345	104	241	5	1
7.	Kakonko	287	115	172	2	1
8.	Tarime	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS		2,161	786	1,360	15	7

Table 3: Data of established anti-GBV Networks at Mosques

No.	District	Number of mosques reached	Number of Muslim faithful reached	Number of ant-GBV Clubs established
1.	Gairo	-	-	-
2.	Bahi	1	50	1
3.	Manyoni	1	15	1
4.	Igunga	1	15	1
5.	Bukoba	-	-	-
6.	Chato	1	17	1
7.	Kakonko	1	45	1
8.	Tarime	-	-	-
TOTALS		5	142	5

Table 4: Data of established anti-GBV Networks at Churches

No.	District	Number of Churches reached	Number of church faithful reached	Number of ant-GBV clubs established
1.	Gairo	0	-	-
2.	Bahi	0	-	-
3.	Manyoni	1	-	1
4.	Igunga	1	49	1
5.	Bukoba	1	22	1
6.	Chato	1	17	1
7.	Kakonko	0	0	-
8.	Tarime	-	-	-
TOTALS		4	88	4

Also, as part of 16 days of activism against GBV, WILDAF awarded countrywide Anti-GBV Champions on 7th December 2023 at Cardinal Rugambwa hall in Dar es salaam. The award which is in its 4th successive year aims at celebrating 16 heroes who have tirelessly to ensure the world becomes a safer place.



On her opening address, WILDAF National Coordinator Advocate Anna Kulaya emphasized on having citizens investing in anti-GBV. She revealed that for 4 years in a row, WILDAF has been awarding average Tanzanians who have been using their energy, mind and resources against GBV either in helping themselves or others in Tanzanian society. She commended all those who were shortlisted and informed them that their commitment and dedication against GBV is vivid and visible.



Thematic Area 3: Strengthened women's and young women's participation in leadership and feminist movements.

WiLDAF continued to contribute towards women participation in leadership and decision-making positions by advocating for gender mainstreaming in legal and institutional frameworks, conducting studies to facilitate evidence-based advocacy, conduct capacity building trainings and mentorship program.

In the FY 2022, WiLDAF's works under this thematic area contributed to promote women leadership in both political and non-political arena. To this end, research and analysis were conducted to facilitate evidence-based advocacy on the need to review and amend the National Election Act CAP 343 and the Political Parties Act CAP 258 to facilitate fair political ground for women to effectively participate in political and electoral process. In addition, trainings were conducted to strengthening knowledge and advocacy skills on the subject matter and mentorship program was launched to strengthen leadership skills among women leaders in CSOs. Two projects have been implemented to achieve desired results in this area, this include Increasing women participation in leadership and decision-making positions project and Strengthening CSO Women Director's Forum program.

On 10th November 2023, WiLDAF long term advocacy for reforms yielded results when the government tabled to the Parliament three landmark bills on electoral and political affairs laws. Among others, the bills incorporated, WiLDAF long term advocacy agenda for requiring political parties to set frameworks for mainstreaming gender equality in their affairs. The Political Parties' Affairs Bills introduced requirement for mandatory gender and social inclusion policies and desks across all parties. This marked significant step towards building conducive legal framework for women participation in politics. Moreover, after further engagement the parliament adopted new provision into the bills on Violence Against Women in Politics. Tanzania has become the first country in Africa to categorize VAWP as an electoral offence increasing protection to women and young taking vying for political posts.

On the other hand, WiLDAF has continued to roll out the Wanawake Wakurugenzi Mentorship Program. Mentors and mentees have continued implementing their action plan developed during the start-up of the program. Mentorship program has become the biggest success of the project and the current women movement in Tanzania. One of its kind and the first in Tanzania mentorship and coaching has facilitated intergenerational as well as peer learning and building of wide and stronger network of women movement. Picking one story of Mwanaisha Mdeme Executive Director of the Women and Young Voice Foundation.



Being young and upcoming feminist leaders with vision for women and young women, Mwanaisha applied to participate in the program and requested to be mentored by Dr. Helen Kijo Bisimba. Running a small organization, which was just established in 2021, Mwanaisha sat with her mentor to identify strengths and weakness and set goals for improvements. Areas they picked included leadership skills and personal development. Mwanaisha has transformed to become a competent feminist leader. During reflection session, Mwanaisha has been quoted stating how the program has not only improved leadership skills but also contribute to personal development. Mwanaisha states through the program, she has learned minor details such as etiquette which makes big contributions to the convincing power as a leader. Mwanaisha dressing code has changed to reflect her personality as a feminist leader. The story continues with impact on Mwanaisha's organization. Through mentorship program, she has been able to develop organization strategic plan setting clear objectives and strategies for their contributions in empowering women and ensuring gender equality becomes a reality at all levels. Mwanaisha also states through the support from Dr. Hellen (her mentor), she has been able to form a functional and effective Board as well as hold Annual General Meeting.

This governance growth is essential towards building stronger and sustainable women's rights organization. Mwanaisha also acquired fundraising skills and how to engage with donors. She was taught how to develop proposals and brochures to increase her organization visibility. At the moment, she is proud to have obtained her first donor which is a result of close mentorship from Dr. Hellen. Mwanaisha, has also received promising communications from other donors which have been engaged.

During this reporting period, WiLDAF finalized the development of an advocacy communication strategy to guide and inform the advocacy interventions of the CSOs Women Directors Forum on women rights and gender equality. The advocacy communication strategy is/was meant to build and revitalize a strong and sustainable women movement with collective voice in Tanzania. The developed advocacy strategy will guide collaboration and alliance building, foster meaningful and impact-based advocacy, facilitate complementarity and leveraging of competitive advantages and revitalize women's voices, agency and movement in Tanzania.

WiLDAF as a coordinator of CSO's Women Directors Forum (CWDF) initiated the development of HerStory Journal Edition Number Two (2) to reflect and re-shape women movement in Tanzania. The second edition is building on the success of the first edition in 2021. This journal is meant to represent the unwavering commitment, dedication, and outstanding contributions of remarkable women who have played pivotal roles in advancing the work of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Tanzania and beyond. Fifteen inspiring and learning stories of CSO women directors have been documented to inspire transformation of women's right and space in the country.



Thematic Area 4: Increased Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR); and Bodily Autonomy

Women and girls, are increasingly deprived of access to essential health care, including SRHR information and services, leaving them more vulnerable to high rates of unwanted pregnancies, unsafe abortion, maternal and low birthweight, miscarriage, premature labour, and sexually-transmitted infections due to disintegrating health systems, unsafe environments, mobility restrictions and preexisting structural barriers. The lack and denial of SRH services is a direct violation of human rights, which perpetuates gender inequality and impedes inclusive and sustainable development.

Furthermore, people with disabilities, including women and girls, face additional barriers to accessing healthcare, assistive devices, wheelchairs, and medicines. People with disabilities often are also unable to access their rights to SRHR, both due to lack of trained medical professionals as well as laws which limit their autonomy by giving other individuals, such as family members or doctors, the right to make decisions for them without their consent, including about contraception, abortion, and sterilization.

WiLDAF intends to fill in this gap through intensive knowledge dissemination, awareness raising, capacity strengthening and advocating for laws and policies that will promote sexual and reproductive health and rights and bodily autonomy.

In 2023, WiLDAF has conducted a life skills training session to 288 (21 with disabilities) adolescent girls and young women (10-19 years) from Kishapu, Kahama and Butiama. The training focused on imparting the out of school AGYW who are prone to or survivors of GBV with knowledge on life skills training, GBV, harmful practices, SRHR, puberty education, nutrition, and menstrual health. With skills acquired, targeted girls are expected to make informed decisions about their sexual and reproductive health and rights.

In addition to that, WiLDAF has empowered 40 social welfare officers to become matrons and support trained out of school girls. Furthermore, WiLDAF has taken significant strides in empowering 40 Social Welfare Officers, Community Development Officers, and Ward Executive Officers from the targeted districts to serve as matrons and patrons for trained adolescent girls and young women. Among the key roles assigned to these trained matrons and patrons is the establishment of life skills clubs in each targeted ward. To date, 58 such clubs have been established, catering to 618 trained girls whereby 288 trained in 2023 and 330 of whom were trained in 2022. Their role extends to providing close mentorship and coaching within these clubs, conducting refresher trainings, and identifying additional girls within their respective wards to equip them with essential skills to safeguard themselves against practices such as FGM, child marriage, and other forms of gender based violence.



Thematic Area 5: Enhanced Women's Economic Justice and Rights

WiLDAF continues to contribute in bridging the economic gender gap between women and men by empowering women to build better livelihoods, earn more income, and create businesses that provide jobs and boost local economies. WiLDAF has been supporting women and their groups on income generating programs and creating market linkages to improve their livelihoods enhance women's, recognition and decision-making power.

During this reporting period, WiLDAF has maintained its steadfast commitment to facilitating the access of out-of-school girls to vocational education in Kishapu, Kahama, and Butiama Districts. These efforts have been directed towards equipping them with essential technical and entrepreneurial skills. Furthermore, WiLDAF has extended support to graduated girls by providing grants and start-up equipment, enabling them to initiate and execute community-based livelihood initiatives.

In 2023, WiLDAF has supported the enrollment of 200 adolescent girls and young women who are survivors of GBV and early marriage to DVTC VETA College (30 girls), St Francis VETA College (164 girls), and Shinyanga VETA College (06 girls) for vocational short courses. As part of the comprehensive support provided through the CLHY program, WiLDAF ensured the provision of six-month stipends to the enrolled adolescent girls and young women. Additionally, safety equipment was meticulously furnished for those pursuing courses in Electric Installation, Plumbing, Motor Grader, Wheel Loader, Welding, and Motor Vehicle Mechanics. This strategic measure was implemented to guarantee a conducive and secure learning environment, fostering the holistic development of these empowered individuals.

Following the graduation of 263 AGYW from VETA Colleges in August 2023, the program continues to support the AGYW with start-up equipment to start their income generation activities. The purchased start-up equipment were for AGYW who undertook basic tailoring, embroidery, hair dressing, and electrical installation. 148 tailoring machines, 5 embroidery machines, 35 hair dryers, 35 washing sink, 35 pairs of combs, 22 electronic toolbox and 22 multimeters have been provided to the said 263. The support is expected to transform their lives, building their financial capacity and reduce vulnerability to violence. With close support from Community Development Officers and Ward Executive Officers, we successfully established 29 economic clubs across targeted wards to uphold close monitoring follow-up, and fortify the sustainability of our initiatives.



Thematic Area 6: Institutional Strengthening

Institutional strengthening is key to successful implementation of WiLDAF programs. As a networking organization, WiLDAF institutional strengthening entails broad ability to deliver impactful and sustainable programs ability to deliver effective programs by the organization and its members.

At the organizational level, WiLDAF has continued to build stronger system to support its sustainable growth. For network members WiLDAF has continued to provide support to ensure they are able to design and implement effective gender transformative programs.

In 2023, WiLDAF developed a resource mobilization strategy. The strategy meant to ensure that WiLDAF has a vibrant, organized, and foreseeable approach to soliciting, acquiring and utilization, management, monitoring, and evaluation of resource mobilization efforts to ensure sustainable resources for the implementation of WiLDAF strategic focus and vision.

The strategy will guide WiLDAF to identify potential sources for institutional support including own sources to support operational, establish a framework for resources mobilization and management of resource mobilization activities, diversify funding sources, improve fundraising efficiency, build relationships with donors and ensure long-term sustainability.





WiLDAF has continued to organize capacity building programs for its members and networks. For example under the VOICE program, WiLDAF held two days annual event for all grantees. The event intended to bring together Voice grantees and stakeholders to exchange lessons learned, experiences gained, and obstacles encountered during the implementation of the VOICE-funded project. Among the accomplishments made at the event were the following: The event created a safe space/platform where VOICE-CoPs were able to share their experience, learning and challenges from their interventions The event strengthened team building skills, emotional intelligence, cooperation, problem solving skills, leadership skills and communication skills among the grantees attended the events

PART III: CHALLENGES, LESSON LEARNED AND OPPORTUNITIES

2.0. **Challenges**

In implementing project intervention in 2023, WiLDAF encountered few challenges which were addressed in various way;

Programmatic challenges



(i) Short-term project lifespan

Some of project span come to an end at the critical moment to yield results. For stance Increasing Women Participation in leadership and decision-making positions came to an end when the Government is in middle of processes of reforming the Political Parties Act and the National Election Act. The two responsible bodies (LRCT and ZRLC) were in the middle of gathering views to inform the drafting of bills to be tabled to the Parliament.



(ii) Knowledge gap

There is still a knowledge gap among the decision makers and key stakeholder concerning national and international legal frameworks that call for gender and inclusion. This has created difficulties for the some of government institutions and other stakeholder mainstreaming gender and disabilities in the national legal and institutional frameworks as set forth by principles the international, regional and national legal frameworks

Financial Challenges



(i) Insufficient fund

1. Because of the insufficient fund available under some project, WiLDAF were not able accomplish an implementation of 2023 Annual Work Plan (AWP).
2. Late disbursement of fund from donors has affected the work plan of the project. Causing some activities not implemented as planned.

PART III: CHALLENGES, LESSON LEARNED AND OPPORTUNITIES

3.0. Lesson Learned

Through out the implementation of program and interventions

(i) Endurance and flexibility

The reform process is not clear-cutting experience. It requires patience and perseverance to be able to lead to tangible outcomes. Thus, in order to deliver more, endurance and flexibility were critical factors. The changes in the perception and in the laws seldom happen quickly. It needs time for the actors to internalize issues discussed and, including identifying benefits and negative effects of moving to a new normal. For instance, to see the gender gap, it was necessary to create awareness and understanding of the actors on gender equality concept and, use evidence to demonstrate the impact of the policies, laws and systems that are gender blind. In particular, reforming laws and policies in Tanzania is a long process. All this required time and perseverance to lead to tangible outcomes in the future

