

NEWSLETTER



GBV MKUKI COALITION REPORT

JAN- MARCH 2026 EDITION



Strengthening Collective Action to End Gender-Based Violence

MESSAGE FROM THE MKUKI CHAIRPERSON

On behalf of the MKUKI Members Network, I sincerely extend heartfelt appreciation to all member organizations, partners, community leaders, advocates, and stakeholders whose unwavering commitment continues to advance the fight against violence against women and children across Tanzania.

We deeply recognize the outstanding contributions of organizations working tirelessly through advocacy, legal aid, psychosocial support, research, community outreach, youth engagement, survivor empowerment, and policy influence. Your dedication has strengthened community awareness, improved access to justice and support services, and inspired collective action toward safer and more inclusive communities.

I would like to especially acknowledge the remarkable efforts of all member organizations featured in this newsletter, including **Tanzania Albinism Society (TAS)** – Morogoro, **Safe Island for Women and Children (SIWoC)**, **Tanzania Anti-Human Trafficking and Legal Initiatives (TATLI)**, **Tusonge Community Development Organization (TUSONGE)**, **Malka Foundation Helper (MFH)**, **Save the Mother and Children of Central Tanzania (SMCCT)**, **Youth Liberty and Psychological Transformation (YLPT)**, **Children’s Dignity Forum (CDF)**, **KAYA Foundation** and **Women in Law and Development in Africa (WILDAF)** for their impactful interventions and continued leadership in preventing and responding to gender-based violence.

I also acknowledge development partners, government institutions, media stakeholders, schools, community leaders, volunteers, survivors, and youth champions whose collaboration and courage continue to drive meaningful change.

Together, we are building stronger systems, transforming harmful norms, amplifying survivor voices, and creating communities where women and children can live free from violence, discrimination, and fear.

As Chairperson of the MKUKI Members Network, I remain inspired by the resilience, solidarity, and collective determination demonstrated by all members and partners. Your continued efforts are creating hope and lasting impact in communities across the country.

Together, we are stronger. Together, we can end violence against women and children.

MESSAGE FROM THE NETWORK

The first quarter of 2026 has demonstrated the strength of collective action across the MKUKI Members Network. Through coordinated community engagement, advocacy, research, and service delivery, member organizations have continued to address gender-based violence (GBV) in both traditional and emerging forms.

From grassroots interventions to international advocacy platforms, this quarter reflects a shared commitment to prevention, survivor support, and systems strengthening. Together, we are not only responding to GBV, but actively transforming communities and institutions.



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**Stronger
Together,
Ending GBV
Everywhere.**

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IMPACT SNAPSHOT

The first quarter of 2026 highlighted the strong collective action of the MKUKI Members Network in addressing gender-based violence (GBV) across Tanzania. Through coordinated efforts in community outreach, advocacy, research, and service delivery, member organizations reached tens of thousands of individuals in schools, communities, and public spaces, significantly increasing awareness and strengthening response systems.

A key achievement this quarter was the increased awareness and confidence among community members, particularly youth, to speak openly about GBV. Through school engagements, dialogues, and campaigns, harmful practices such as child marriage, sexual violence, and exploitation were openly discussed, contributing to a noticeable shift in attitudes and reduced stigma. Many young people and survivors gained the courage to report incidents and seek help.

The network also contributed to improved access to justice and survivor support services. Strengthened referral systems, legal aid provision, and psychosocial support enabled survivors to access timely assistance. Increased reporting of GBV cases across several regions reflects growing trust in community structures and service providers, as well as improved coordination between civil society, government institutions, and local leaders.

In addition, MKUKI members advanced economic and social empowerment of women and girls, addressing root causes of vulnerability. Through entrepreneurship support, life skills training, and community-based initiatives, women and girls were equipped with skills and opportunities to improve their livelihoods, reducing dependency and exposure to economic violence.

The quarter also highlighted the importance of mental health and psychosocial support in GBV response. Counselling services provided safe spaces for individuals to share experiences, heal from trauma, and build resilience. This revealed a critical and growing need for integrating mental health services into GBV programming, especially for young people.

At the advocacy level, member organizations strengthened national, regional, and international engagement, contributing to knowledge sharing, policy dialogue, and collaborative approaches to combating GBV and human trafficking. These efforts enhanced the visibility of grassroots issues and positioned the network as a key actor in GBV prevention and response.

Overall, the collective impact of MKUKI members in Q1 2026 shows meaningful progress in transforming attitudes, strengthening systems, empowering communities, and improving survivor support. While challenges such as stigma, limited resources, and gaps in enforcement remain, the network continues to build a strong foundation for sustained and scalable impact.

QUARTERLY HIGHLIGHTS AT A GLANCE



24,000+ people reached through the GBV Caravan Outreach Campaign across five regions.



15,000+ community members engaged through awareness campaigns, dialogues, and outreach activities



56 GBV survivors received legal aid services



3,000+ students and education stakeholders reached through schools and communities.



1,100+ students empowered through life skills.



120+ individuals received psychosocial support and mental wellbeing.



MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

Women in Law and Development in Africa (WiLDAF)

WiLDAF played a leading role in national advocacy and coordination of GBV interventions.

- Organized the **Anti-GBV Champions Award** Ceremony, recognizing individuals and institutions advancing GBV prevention and response
- Led national reflection on the **16 Days of Activism**, emphasizing continuous action beyond campaigns
- Implemented the **Caravan Outreach** Campaign, reaching over **24,000 people** through school and community dialogues
- Provided **legal aid (56 cases)** and psycho-social support (120+ individuals)



NATIONAL RECOGNITION DRIVING ACTION AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

In the first quarter of 2026, WiLDAF Tanzania led a powerful national advocacy initiative through the Anti-Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Champions Award Ceremony, held on 6th February 2026 in Dar es Salaam.

The event brought together a diverse coalition of stakeholders—including government representatives, development partners, diplomatic missions, civil society organizations, media, youth leaders, and grassroots actors demonstrating the collective national commitment required to end GBV.

This convening was not only ceremonial, it served as a strategic platform for reflection, learning, and strengthening accountability mechanisms in GBV prevention and response.

Celebrating Frontline Change-Makers

The Awards recognized individuals and institutions making tangible impact across multiple sectors:

◆ **Community and Traditional Leadership**

Leaders challenging harmful norms such as child marriage, inheritance discrimination, and gender inequality

Opening decision-making spaces for women within traditionally male-dominated systems

◆ **Youth and Grassroots Advocacy**

Young activists exposing human trafficking networks and rescuing victims

Community advocates supporting survivors and strengthening local protection systems

◆ **Media and Digital Advocacy**

Journalists exposing hidden GBV cases and driving national accountability

Digital activists combating online gender-based violence and cyber harassment

◆ **Faith-Based Leadership**

Religious leaders promoting justice, dignity, and protection within communities

Integrating GBV prevention into faith-based outreach and teachings

◆ **Survivor-Led Advocacy**

Survivors transforming personal experiences into community action and legal justice

Supporting other women and families to claim their rights

TANZANIA ALBINISM SOCIETY (TAS) – MOROGORO



Tanzania Albinism Society (TAS) – Morogoro implemented community-based interventions aimed at strengthening gender-based violence (GBV) prevention, awareness, and response mechanisms across Morogoro region. The organization conducted sensitization campaigns in communities and schools, engaging women, girls, men, community leaders, and service providers to improve understanding of GBV, reporting mechanisms, and available support services.

These efforts contributed to increased community awareness and a noticeable shift in attitudes, particularly among men and boys who became more willing to engage in discussions on gender equality and violence prevention. The interventions also strengthened coordination among stakeholders, **improving referral pathways and enabling survivors to better access health, legal, and psychosocial services.** As a result, there was a significant increase in reporting of GBV cases, reflecting growing trust in the system and reduced stigma within communities.

Despite this progress, challenges such as fear, stigma, and low participation in some community sessions persisted, highlighting the need for continued engagement and trust-building at grassroots level. A powerful example of impact is seen in the story of a **17-year-old girl who, after experiencing violence, gained confidence through community interventions** to speak out and support other survivors, inspiring wider community action. Overall, TAS's work demonstrates the importance of sustained **community engagement** in transforming attitudes, strengthening support systems, and promoting a culture where survivors are empowered to seek help.



SAFE ISLAND FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN (SIWOC)

Safe Island for Women and Children (SIWoC) contributed to advancing knowledge and advocacy on gender-based violence through research focused on youth protection and gender inequality in Tanzania. The organization conducted a desk study examining structural discrimination affecting adolescent girls, including early marriage, exposure to sexual violence, and harmful practices such as female genital mutilation, all of which continue to pose significant risks to their health and rights.

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**Protecting
Girls, Powering
Change Through
Evidence.**

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SIWoC further amplified this work at an international level by presenting research findings at a global seminar in Serbia, engaging with stakeholders from multiple countries to share Tanzania’s context and learn from cross-country experiences. The research highlighted that adolescent girls remain disproportionately affected by violence, particularly during late teenage years, with peer violence identified as a critical and often overlooked risk factor.

The findings also underscored systemic challenges, including under reporting of violence, weak enforcement of child protection procedures, and the influence of harmful gender norms across both rural and urban settings. In addition, gaps in access to accurate sexual and reproductive health information were identified as contributing factors to increased vulnerability among youth. Overall, SIWoC’s work has strengthened evidence based advocacy and laid the foundation for future interventions aimed at protecting adolescents, promoting safer environments, and addressing inequalities affecting young girls.

TANZANIA ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND LEGAL INITIATIVES (TATLI)

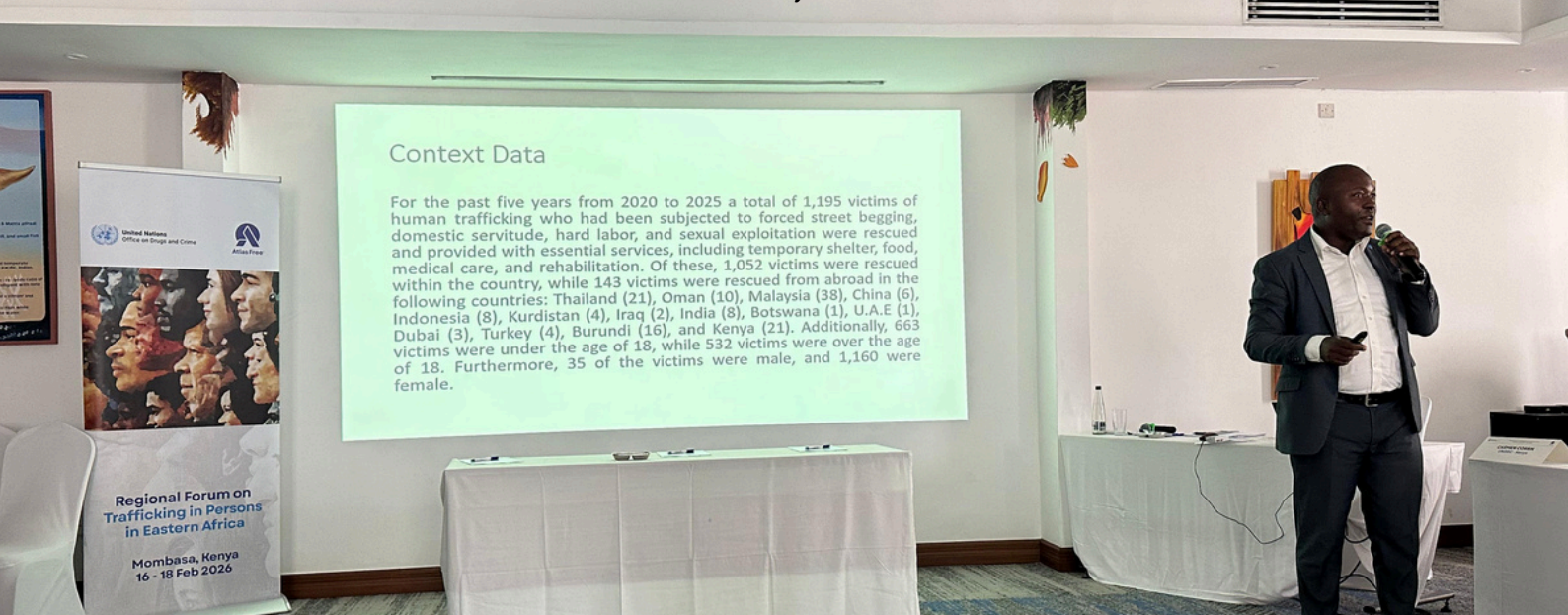
Tanzania Anti-Human Trafficking and Legal Initiatives (TATLI) strengthened its capacity and visibility in addressing human trafficking as a form of gender-based violence through active participation in regional and global platforms. The organization took part in the Regional Summit on Trafficking in Persons in Eastern Africa held in Mombasa, Kenya, as well as an international virtual dialogue on global anti-trafficking efforts, engaging with stakeholders from across the region and beyond.

Through these engagements, **TATLI** expanded its knowledge, shared insights on trafficking trends in Tanzania, and built strategic partnerships with organizations working in similar fields. This exposure contributed to improved understanding of emerging trafficking patterns and strengthened collaborative approaches to prevention, protection, and response. The organization also enhanced its role in linking local efforts to international frameworks, positioning itself to contribute more effectively to coordinated anti-trafficking initiatives.

Despite challenges such as limited staffing and financial resources, TATLI's participation demonstrated the importance of capacity building, networking, and information exchange in addressing complex and transnational forms of gender-based violence. The organization's work highlights the value of partnerships in strengthening collective action and advancing efforts to combat human trafficking at both national and regional levels.

“ Stronger Partnerships, Safer Lives—Ending Human Trafficking Together. ”

TATLI Executive Director, Mr. Godfrey Mpandikizi presenting the current trends of Human Trafficking in Tanzania during the Regional Summit on Trafficking in Persons in Eastern Africa held in Mombasa, Kenya.



RETHINK AND RE-ENERGIZE (R&R) SESSION: WILDAF



As part of efforts to strengthen feminist leadership and collective action, Women in Law and Development in Africa (WiLDAF), in collaboration with the GBV Prevention Network, convened a two-day “Rethink and Re-energize” (R&R) session in Dar es Salaam, bringing together 25 women directors from civil society organizations. The session responded to the social and emotional impact following the 2025 general elections and provided a safe space for participants to reflect, heal, and re-strategize on advancing gender justice.

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Bridging Generations, Strengthening Feminist Futures.

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The engagement focused on building resilient feminist movements through leadership development, wellbeing, and collaboration. Participants explored key issues such as backlash against women leaders, underfunding of feminist work, intergenerational gaps, and misconceptions surrounding feminism. The discussions emphasized the importance of ethical leadership, shared power, trust, and inclusion, while also highlighting the need to address burnout and prioritize mental health within organizations working on gender-based violence.

A key outcome of the session was the formation of the Tanzania Intergeneration Forum (TIF), a platform aimed at strengthening collaboration, mentorship, and joint advocacy across different generations of feminist leaders. The forum will support coordinated action, knowledge sharing, and resource mobilization, ensuring sustainability of feminist movements in Tanzania. Overall, the session strengthened solidarity among women leaders, enhanced their capacity to respond to emerging challenges, and reinforced the importance of collective, inclusive approaches in advancing gender equality and preventing violence against women.

TUSONGE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION (TUSONGE)



Driven by a commitment to creating safer and healthier communities, Tusonge Community Development Organization (**TUSONGE**) implemented integrated community interventions in Kilimanjaro region aimed at addressing gender-based violence (GBV) alongside critical health service gaps. Through community campaigns conducted during the 16 Days of Activism and International Women's Day, the organization provided awareness sessions on GBV, child marriage, and FGM while offering essential health services such as HIV testing, cervical and breast cancer screening, and family planning support.

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**Centering
Women and
Girls,
Transforming
Communities.**

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The initiative reached hundreds of community members directly, particularly women and girls, and millions indirectly through radio programs, significantly expanding awareness on GBV and mental health issues. The combination of health services, legal aid, and open community dialogues improved access to services and empowered participants to seek support and share experiences. Notably, over 90% of women and girls participating in the campaign accessed voluntary health testing, demonstrating increased trust and uptake of services.

In addition, TUSONGE strengthened local response systems by building the capacity of community committees and engaging peer educators, which improved coordination and case management for GBV survivors. The interventions also encouraged greater participation of men and boys as allies in promoting gender equality. Despite challenges such as weather conditions and limited service providers, the organization's approach proved effective in enhancing awareness, strengthening referral mechanisms, and promoting community-driven solutions to GBV.

MALKA FOUNDATION HELPER (MFH)



Driven by a vision of empowering communities and creating opportunities for women and girls, Malka Foundation Helper (MFH) implemented integrated community and school-based interventions in Dar es Salaam and Kigoma aimed at promoting gender equality, environmental sustainability, and economic empowerment. The organization established Gender Clubs and Environmental Clubs in schools, reaching over 1,100 students, while also supporting out-of-school girls through entrepreneurship initiatives and practical skills training such as compost production.

These interventions created safe spaces for young people to discuss gender issues, actively engage in environmental conservation activities such as waste management and tree planting, and develop life skills. The distribution of waste bins improved school sanitation, while environmental clubs encouraged children to take leadership in maintaining clean and sustainable surroundings. At the same time, girls who had dropped out of school gained entrepreneurial skills and support to start small income-generating activities, contributing to their financial independence and resilience.

Overall, **MFH's** work demonstrated the effectiveness of integrating gender, environmental, and economic empowerment approaches to address root causes of vulnerability. Despite challenges such as limited resources and initial low awareness, the interventions led to increased participation, improved knowledge, and positive behavioral change among young people, highlighting their potential as agents of change within their communities.



SAVE THE MOTHER AND CHILDREN OF CENTRAL TANZANIA (SMCCT)



Committed to strengthening community protection systems and empowering vulnerable groups, Save the Mother and Children of Central Tanzania (SMCCT) implemented community-based interventions in Singida region aimed at strengthening gender-based violence (GBV) prevention, awareness, and response systems. Through community meetings, school engagements, and training sessions, the organization reached over 650 individuals, including women, youth, students, and community leaders, increasing awareness on GBV, survivors' rights, and available support services.

The interventions contributed to improved reporting of GBV cases and strengthened collaboration between community leaders and service providers, enhancing referral systems and access to support services. In addition, SMCCT integrated economic empowerment initiatives by providing life skills training and establishing demonstration farms, enabling women and youth to generate income and reduce vulnerability to economic violence. These combined efforts supported both prevention and long-term resilience within communities.



Despite ongoing challenges such as stigma, fear of reporting, and resource constraints, the organization observed positive changes in community attitudes and increased trust in support systems. A notable outcome includes a survivor who, after attending awareness sessions, reported her case and accessed timely support, later becoming an advocate encouraging others to speak out.

Overall, SMCCT's work highlights the importance of combining awareness, system strengthening, and economic empowerment to effectively address GBV at community level.



GBV Caravan Outreach Initiative- WiLDAF

Driven by a commitment to bringing services closer to communities and strengthening collective action against gender-based violence, Women in Law and Development in Africa (WiLDAF), through the MKUKI Coalition, implemented a large-scale GBV Caravan outreach campaign across multiple regions including Shinyanga, Singida, Morogoro, Pwani, and Dar es Salaam. The initiative combined school dialogues, community market engagements, legal aid provision, and psychosocial support to address gender-based violence at both grassroots and institutional levels.

The Caravan reached over **24,000 people** through school and community dialogues, creating safe spaces for participants to share experiences, identify GBV risks, and learn about prevention and reporting mechanisms.

Through participatory approaches such as discussions, role plays, and creative expression, students and community members demonstrated increased awareness of GBV, including harmful practices such as child marriage, sexual violence, exploitation, and corporal punishment. The initiative also provided direct support services, including legal aid for 56 cases and psychosocial support to over 120 individuals, strengthening access to justice and survivor care.

In addition, the Caravan revealed critical systemic and social challenges, including limited legal awareness, harmful cultural practices, economic vulnerability, and gaps in protection systems. Issues such as school-based violence, child labor, early pregnancy, and exploitation in communities were widely reported, highlighting the urgent need for sustained interventions.



Despite these challenges, the initiative strengthened collaboration with local authorities, improved referral mechanisms, and promoted community responsibility in addressing GBV. Overall, the Caravan demonstrated the effectiveness of integrated, community-centered approaches in raising awareness, supporting survivors, and driving collective action to prevent gender-based violence.

YOUTH LIBERTY AND PSYCHOLOGICAL TRANSFORMATION (YLPT)



Committed to promoting mental wellbeing and strengthening community support systems, **Youth Liberty and Psychological Transformation (YLPT)** played a critical role in the GBV Caravan initiative by providing psychological counselling, awareness creation, and community engagement across multiple regions including Singida, Shinyanga, Morogoro, Pwani, and Dar es Salaam. Through school visits and community outreach in markets and public spaces, the organization engaged students, teachers, and community members in discussions on gender-based violence, mental health, and available support systems.

The interventions created safe spaces for individuals, particularly young people, to openly share their experiences and seek counseling support. Many beneficiaries reported feeling relieved and more informed about how to respond to GBV challenges after receiving guidance, demonstrating increased awareness and positive behavioral change. The work also revealed a strong and unmet need for mental health and counseling services within communities, especially among youth affected by violence and social challenges.

Despite challenges such as limited time, lack of private counseling spaces, and high demand for services, **YLPT** managed to provide essential psycho social support and referrals for more complex cases. A notable example includes a case identified during the Caravan where a child exhibiting harmful behavior was successfully referred for follow-up counseling, showing the importance of timely intervention and coordination with social welfare systems. Overall, **YLPT's** contribution highlights the critical role of mental health support in GBV prevention and response, and the need to strengthen counseling services within schools and communities.



Positive Parenting Training, fostering shared learning on gender-responsive parenting, child protection, and violence prevention.

Children's Dignity Forum (CDF)

Driven by a commitment to creating safe and inclusive environments for children, Children's Dignity Forum (CDF) implemented school and community-based interventions in Mpwawa District, Dodoma, aimed at strengthening child protection systems and preventing violence against children. Through the Good School Toolkit (GST) Agile training and school-wide engagement, over **3,000 students** and education stakeholders were reached, promoting safer, more inclusive, and child-friendly learning environments.

The interventions contributed to a noticeable shift in attitudes among teachers and school leaders, with increased openness to positive discipline approaches and participatory leadership. At the community level, Positive Parenting Training strengthened the role of parents—especially fathers—in child protection and gender equality, encouraging non-violent parenting, improved communication, and active involvement in safeguarding children's well being.

CDF's work also led to broader social change by challenging harmful norms such as corporal punishment, child marriage, and silence around abuse. A powerful outcome was the increased willingness of community members to report violence and take collective responsibility in protecting vulnerable individuals, including children with disabilities. Overall, the interventions strengthened community accountability, improved child protection practices, and demonstrated the importance of combining school-based and community-driven approaches to prevent violence and promote safe environments for children.



KAYA Foundation

Committed to promoting dignity, inclusion, and equal opportunities for all, KAYA Foundation implemented community-based awareness and advocacy initiatives in Ilala District, Dar es Salaam, focusing on the rights and protection of children and women with disabilities. The organization conducted awareness campaigns and workshops engaging teachers, parents, local leaders, and community members to address gender-based violence and promote inclusive education. These efforts directly reached over 100 participants and extended further through social media advocacy on disability inclusion.

The interventions contributed to increased awareness and a shift in community attitudes toward children with disabilities, particularly in recognizing their right to education and protection. As a result, more children with disabilities were enrolled in early learning schools, and families became more proactive in seeking healthcare services, including access to medical insurance support. The initiative also encouraged greater involvement of fathers in parenting, helping to challenge harmful norms that often place the burden of care solely on women.

KAYA Foundation's work further addressed structural challenges such as stigma, discrimination, and neglect faced by children with disabilities and their caregivers. Through targeted support, including the donation of assistive devices and health insurance cards, the organization improved access to essential services and enhanced the wellbeing of vulnerable children. Overall, the interventions demonstrated the importance of inclusive, community-driven approaches in addressing GBV and promoting the rights, dignity, and protection of children and women with disabilities.

CONCLUSION

Collective action within the MKUKI Members Network continued to drive significant progress in advancing the fight against gender-based violence across Tanzania in the first quarter of 2026. Through coordinated efforts in awareness creation, advocacy, service delivery, and community engagement, member organizations made meaningful progress in transforming attitudes, strengthening support systems, and empowering vulnerable groups. Communities are increasingly speaking out, survivors are accessing services with greater confidence, and partnerships between stakeholders continue to grow stronger.

While challenges such as stigma, limited resources, and gaps in enforcement remain, the progress achieved demonstrates that sustained, collaborative approaches can drive lasting change. Moving forward, continued investment in community-based interventions, mental health support, and system strengthening will be essential to building safer, more inclusive societies. The MKUKI Members Network remains committed to this mission, working together to ensure that every individual lives free from violence, with dignity and equal opportunity.