



**COALITION FOR WOMEN HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS TANZANIA**



**ANNUAL REPORT – 2021**

## Contents

<i>1.0 Message from the Executive Director.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>2.0 Summary and Background .....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>3. Description of the Activities Implemented with its outcomes .....</i>	<i>6</i>
3.1 Outcome #. 1: Improve CWHRDs Members' Affairs.....	6
3.1.1 GBV awareness related to impact of COVID 19.3. ....	7
3.1. 2 Digital Security Training and online gender based Violence.....	7
3.1.3 Organize a National Forum for WHRDs .....	10
3.1.4 Commemoration of International Women’s Day 2021 .....	10
3.1.5. Commemoration of African Child Day .....	10
3.1.6 Commemoration of International Women Human Rights Defenders Day 2021 .	11
3.2 Outcome #. 2: Advocacy and Information .....	12
3.3 Outcome #3: Strengthening Partnership with Government .....	12
3.4 Outcome # 4: Advocate for International Human Rights Instruments .....	13
3.5 Outcome #. 5: Protection and Legal Support .....	14
3.5.1 Provide legal, psychological support and protection to WHRDs. ....	14
3.5.2 Promoting self-care and well being for WHRDs . ....	14
3.6 Outcome #. 6: Institutional Development and Sustainability.....	15
3.6.1 Organization Capacity Assessment Workshop.....	15
3.6.2 Digital Security Support.....	15
3.6.3 Procure Office Working facilities .....	16
<i>4.0 Organization’s Overall Achievements .....</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>5.0 Challenges.....</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>6. Development Partners.....</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>7.0 Our Focus for next five years 2022- 2026 .....</i>	<i>16</i>

## 1.0 Message from the Executive Director

The Coalition for Women Human Rights Defenders Tanzania (CWHRDs-Tz) is a Non-Governmental Organization established with the goal of protecting and safeguarding Women Human Rights Defenders by addressing their critical needs.

Women Human Rights Defenders are women active in defending human rights who are targeted for who they are because they are women as well as for what they do. The environment in which WHRDs operate is characterized by increasing violations including gender based violence and go far to incessant arbitrary arrests and detention, threats, intimidation and torture.

This report is the CWHRDs –Tz Annual report which explains the implemented activities conducted for the year 2021, objectives and its outcomes rely on its one year operational plan of 2021 to 2022. Through the implemented activities, the report aimed at contributing to efforts that push for an improvement in the precarious working conditions of WHRDs in Tanzania. The Tanzania context of the work of WHRDs is complex and the range of violations they experience is extensive which means that ensuring effective protection of these targets will require actions and concrete and effective protection from the Government.

The WHRDs are implementing their activities of defending Women's and girl's rights by adopting various African and International Human Rights instruments for promotion and protection of WHRDs some of those including Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Protocol to the African charter on Human and people's rights on the rights of women (Maputo Protocol adopted in 2003).

The report also contains the involvements of Government through its Ministries Department Agencies, National Human Rights Institutions, different International, Regional and National Development partners and different stakeholders dealing with protecting the rights of women and girls.

There has been significant progress made by WHRDs in gaining recognition for their important work. Hence the CWHRDs-Tz through this report call for improving working conditions of WHRDs in Tanzania.

It is also my hope that the report will bring light and changes on improving the working environment of WHRDs who providing significant roles such as an increase of women participation in politics and decision making bodies, reduction of Maternal Mortality and morbidities, early and child marriages, teen pregnancies, prevention of gender based violence and so many rights of women and girls.

The coalition for WHRDs Tanzania will continue to advocating for protection mechanisms of WHRDs to ensure there respect of women and girls rights. Tanzanian government should therefore make an effort to create a safe, enabling and secure environment for WHRDs so that they can participate freely without any abuse in the promotion and protection of the women and girls rights.

Finally I wish to express my deep gratitude to all those who have contributed their time and expertise to this report. I am aware that a large number of WHRDs pay a heavy price for their faith in women and girls rights and hereby wish to thank and pay them tribute.

Thanks.

Hilda Stuart. Dadu  
Coordinator

## 2.0 Summary and Background

The Coalition for Women’s Human Rights Defenders Tanzania (CWHRD-Tanzania) is a non-governmental organization established in 2019 with the registration Number ooNGO/R/0367 with its head office in Dar es Salaam Tanzania. The Coalition was formed by young women who felt there was a need to form to make a strong movement of Women Human Rights Defenders in Tanzania. During the year 2021, the Coalition for Women’s Right Defenders-Tanzania has implemented a range of activities guided by the One Year Implementation Plan 2021-2022, which contains five outcomes derived from five objectives.

In 2021, CWHRDs TZ pursue its mission with through its objectives to reach the planned outcomes:-

SN	Outcome	Objective
1	Improve CWHRDs Members' Affairs	Promote collaboration and coordination among human rights and women's rights organizations at the national level to strengthen responses concerning safety and wellbeing of WHRDs of Tanzania. Building capacities of WHRDs members of the coalition.
2	Advocacy and information	To facilitate the visibility and recognition of women human rights defenders Tanzania and document their struggles, researching, producing and disseminating information, strategies success and challenges
3	Protection and Legal support	To support WHRDs organizations and individuals and strengthening collective action for protection, establishment, solidarity and protection networks, the promotion of self-care, and advocacy and mobilization for safe-net of WHRDs
4.	Institutional Development and Sustainability	Strengthen human and financial resources. Improve secretariat members. To improve governance programs; board of directors performances and motivate staff and volunteers.

In 2021 the Coalition also implemented several activities guided by the outcomes and objectives developed in the operational plan of 2020/2021.

- ❖ The Coalition conducted a digital security training to increase understanding on the use of digital safely to Women Human rights defenders and Women leaders and launched the WHRDs Safe online “Wanawake Watetezi Salama Mtandaoni” Campaign. The *end online gender based violence for Women leaders and women human rights defenders Tanzania* was a project aimed at involving Government Authorities as key stakeholders as well as Women Human Rights Defenders to deliberate on how they can collaborate to end online gender –based violence and

strengthening digital security for women human rights defenders and women leaders in the country.

- ❖ The coalition for WHRDs raised awareness on GBV awareness happened during the COVID 19 to its members. Further to that, the coalition produced GBV messages related to COVID 19 which was shared through its social media accounts namely twitter, Face book, and Instagram.
- ❖ The coalition also marked various International events that aimed to promote women's and girls' rights such as:
- ❖ Commemoration of International Women's Day on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021 in Dodoma . The event posed the discussion on "the effects of Sexual harassment and its impact on reproductive health on women and girls. On 15<sup>th</sup> July, 2021 the Coalition Celebrated the African Child day aimed at enhancing gender equality and prevention of gender based violence to the children.
- ❖ The Coalition commemorated the International Women's Human Rights Defenders Day on 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2021 in Dar es salaam whereby by the WHRDs safely Online ( Wanawake Watetezi Salama Mtandaoni) Campaign was launched .
- ❖ The Coalition joined efforts with other international, regional and national organizations to commemorate The 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence.
- ❖ The Coalition provided press releases on emerged issues of women's and girls' rights violations to call for government and stakeholders' urgent actions to prevent situation of human rights violations.
- ❖ The Coalition engaged the government stakeholders especially through the Ministry responsible for Gender, Community Development, Women and Special Group, Ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs, Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance and the Prime Minister's Office (TAMISEMI), to inform them about coalition existence, its vision, mission and objectives and possible collaborations.

It should be noted that, this is the second annual report of the Coalition which highlights the overall activities carried out in 2021, results of the activities, challenges and the way forward.

### **3. Description of the Activities Implemented with its outcomes**

#### **3.1 Outcome #. 1: Improve CWHRDs Members' Affairs**

Implementation of activities under this outcome aimed at promoting collaboration and coordination among women's rights defenders at the national level to strengthen responses concerning safety and wellbeing of WHRDs in Tanzania and capacity building to WHRDs.

### 3.1.1 GBV awareness related to impact of COVID 19.3.

**WHRDs meet to reflect and rethink on advocacy strategies to respond and prevent GBV and VAW during the COVID 19 pandemic.** The activity was carried out to strategize on how to respond and prevent WHRDs at risk from GBV and VAW through engagement with the government and other stakeholders.

To achieve the above mentioned outcome, the following activities were undertaken under;

- i. The Coalition conducted GBV awareness on the effect of COVID 19 pandemic on 15<sup>th</sup> July, 2021 in Dar es Salaam. The training was attended by 30 members of the coalition. Through this activity, participants were able to identify gender based violence issues emanated during COVID19.
- ii. The coalition developed more than 15 GBV messages emanated as the impact of COVID19 pandemic period and were shared through social media platforms of the coalition.
- iii. The coalition produced and printed 300 GBV bracelets and shared where 250 bracelets distributed to WHRDs of Tanzania and stakeholders while 50 bracelets were distributed to members of East African Women Human Rights Defenders Network (EAWHRDN).
- iv. The Coalition also developed a roll up banner with GBV message related to effects of COVID 19 to women and girls. Some of the messages called for actions of the responsible organs to address GBV related to the impacts of COVID 19 to women and girls in Tanzania.



*WHRDs meet for awareness raising and develop GBV messages on the impact*

### 3.1. 2 Digital Security Training and online gender based Violence

In 2021 CWHRDs conducted a Digital Security Trainings to 90 WHRDs (60 Women, 30 Male) the training were centered in Dar es Salaam (hosted participants from Pwani, Zanzibar, Kilimanjaro, Tanga , Dodoma and Dar es salaam) Dodoma and Mwanza (hosted participants from; Kigoma ,Mara, Katavi, Geita and Mwanza ). The participants were drawn from WHRDs organizations and government institutions which included; Commission for Human Rights and Good Government (CHRAGG), Police Gender Desk

(Nyamagana), Ministry of Gender and Community Development, Women and Special Groups, TAMISEMI, Women District Officers ( Nyamagana and Ilemela Districts) Ward Councillors.



The objective of the training was to create understandings among WHRDs and Women leaders on Digital Security and Online Gender Violence; how to protect their communication devices, laws and policies which govern online communications and contents, strengthen awareness of the safe use of social and digital networks for women leaders, WHRDs and women in general. Not only that but also identifying ways to prevent and reduce cybercrime and violence against WHRDs and other women leaders, and establish security plans for safe use of social media in their day to day activities.

The outcome results were: trainees were able to secure their devices especially laptops and cell phones and they were able to develop a safety action plan for individual and organizations and the same was directed to be shared and implemented within the organization.





*Second from right is Amina Makilagi, Nyamagana District Commissioner and WHRDs during training of digital security to women leaders and WHRDs in Mwanza*



*Digital training to women leaders from CHRAGG and Member of Parliament and WHRDs in Dodoma*

### 3.1.3 Organize a National Forum for WHRDs

The forum provide space to learn or exchange specific emerging issues for members to deliberate and dialogue to synchronize efforts and other issues related to Women Human Rights Defenders of Tanzania .

### 3.1.4 Commemoration of International Women’s Day 2021

The Coalition organized a one-day dialogue to commemoration of the International Women’s Day on 10 March 2021 in Dodoma. The event was attended by 55 WHRDs and SRHR Stakeholders including representatives from the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Ministry of Constitution and Legal Affairs, Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance and CSOs representative from all regions with majority of representatives from CSOs focusing on Sexual and reproductive health and rights and Gender based violence.

The dialogue was intended to discuss and identify sexual harassment issues, and its impacts to reproductive health to women and girls in Tanzania.



*Group photo of participant during commemoration of International Women Day March 8, 2021 in Dodoma*

Also the Coalition gave an overview of the acts constituting sexual harassment and reproductive health from its previous report. The overview some of the acts identified in the report included; forced/early marriage, sextotion, physical harassment , libel and slender .

### 3.1.5. Commemoration of African Child Day

On 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2021 the Coalition in collaboration with PHLI, RUFFO and LJF activity organized and commemorated the African Child Day in Dar es salaam. The event gathered 70 students from Salma Kikwete and Makumbusho Secondary schools and 15 Sex Workers school dropout due to pregnancy. The aim of the event was to raise awareness on issues of gender equality, gender based violence, as well as children’s rights

including the effects of school child pregnancy. The event was officiated by the District Development officer of Ilala.

### 3.1.6 Commemoration of International Women Human Rights Defenders Day 2021

On 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2021 the CWHRDs together with its partners celebrated the International Women Human Rights Defenders Day. The event was attended by 82 participants including; from Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar with representatives from different CSOs, government leaders, Development Partners



*Group Photo during the commemoration of the International Day for Women's Human Rights Defenders*

During the commemoration the Coalition launched its campaign on “WHRDs Safe online (Wanawake Watetezi Salama Mtandaoni)”. This campaign aimed at protecting women human rights defenders and women in leadership against online gender violence. The international WHRDs Day used to recognize and award the 2021 Champions WHRDs. This year 6 outstanding WHRDs were awarded and recognized WHRDs in 2021.



*Permanent Secretary of MoHCDGE Dr John Jingu, launched online campaign for WHRDs*

It was during this event, some of emerging issues related to gender based violence were discussed, this included; femicide, intimate partners violence, Online GBV and sexual harassment.

### **3.2 Outcome #. 2: Advocacy and Information**

This outcome is intended to facilitate the visibility and recognition of women human rights defenders in Tanzania, document their struggles and disseminating their information.

The following were the activities implemented;

- i. CWHRDs provided gender sensitive recommendations to the Miscellaneous Amendment Bills No. 2 and 4 of 2021 before the Parliamentary Standing Committee of Constitution and Legal. CWHRDs - TZ played a big role in ensuring gender sensitive issues are incorporated in the recommendations of which 45 % were taken in the past laws.
- ii. In December 2021, the Coalition issued press statement to call for actions from the government and stakeholders of online Communication to stop emerged online GBV violence of women and girls. Furthermore, in 2021 the coalition wrote a letter to TCRA requesting for urgent action against incidences on online GBV and bullying to women and girls which in turn two social media accounts that were used to circulate the nude photos and porn emerges were shut down.

### **3.3 Outcome #3: Strengthening Partnership with Government**

In order to strengthen the organization's ties with the government.

- i. In October 22, 2021, the Coalition organized a meeting with the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health where the coalition introduced its works and seek close collaboration with the Ministry. The meeting discussion provided ways of collaborations and among others on protection of WHRDs who are at risks and on issues demanding data for women's and girls human rights violations.
- ii. On 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2021 in Dodoma the Coalition held Government Stakeholders meeting to solicit stakeholders' collaboration and setting strategies to prevent and eradicate online gender based violence against women in leadership, WHRDs and women's at large. High level government officials from the Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children (MoHCDGEC), TAMISEMI, Ministry of Constitutional and Legal affairs through the Office of Attorney General as well as Commission of Human Rights and Good Governance.



*Stakeholders engagement with Government in Dodoma*

### **3.4 Outcome # 4: Advocate for International Human Rights Instruments**

The activity is undertaken to advocate for domestication of International and Regional Human Rights Instruments for HRDs .The Instruments includes the UN Resolution No 3325, Beijing Resolution No. 5, Declaration on Protection of Human Rights Defenders of 1998, Women Human Rights Defenders Declaration of 2013, MAPUTO Protocol of 2003.

In 2021 the Coalition in collaboration with its members implemented a project namely, *“Mwanamke na Amani”* to promote women participation in conflict resolutions and peace susta/inability building which answers the UN Resolution No 3325. . Through this project, the coalition was able to draft a by –law and presented it the government Bagamoyo Municipality which was later adopted and implemented within Bagamoyo Municipal. This By-Law started to apply in two wards namely; Dunda and Magomen and later on implantation spread to other parts of wards of Bagamoyo Municipality and Zanzibar.

### **3.5 Outcome #. 5: Protection and Legal Support**

The focus of this outcome is to support WHRDs organizations, individuals, strengthening collective action for protection, establishment solidarity, protection of networks, and promotion of self-care, advocacy and mobilization for safe-net of WHRDs.

#### **3.5.1 Provide legal, psychological support and protection to WHRDs.**

In 2021, the coalition provided legal support to more than 30 women human rights defenders who were attacked and false arrested and detained by Police. For instance online TV owner was arrested at JK International Airport in the mid night being accused of airing gender based violence issues without proper procedures. The accused WHRD was detained for three days under the police custody and her working tools were confiscated by the police. Following that incident the Coalition provided legal and family support.

In another incident the Coalition provide legal assistance to a university student whose nude images went viral in social media The Coalition wrote a letter to the management of TCRA requesting for the intervention of the issues.

In additional to that Coalition issued a press release realize condemning the matter. TCRA in response to the matter immediate closed 4 twitter accounts of the perpetrators. TCRA \ responded the Coalition through official letter outlining the measures taken and an advice to the coalition.

Another incident a WHRDs refused to have sexual relationship with her immediate boss, a board chairperson where the latter decided to fire her from her job. The WHRD sought assistance from the Coalition where they pursued the case. As a result, the Chairperson was forcedly removed and the donors withdraw from funding the project.

#### **3.5.2 Promoting self-care and well being for WHRDs .**

Coalition conducted self care and well being session to its members through zoom and Google meetings to reduce incidences of mental health to WHRDs. Through these sessions WHRDs share and learn how to remove work stresses and traumas resulting from defending works. The Coalition members agreed to meet after every two weeks to share their issues and provide solutions.

### 3.6 Outcome #. 6: Institutional Development and Sustainability

The objective is to strengthen human and financial resources, improve secretariat, members. This will facilitate to improve, and board of directors performance and motivate staff and volunteer.

#### 3.6.1 Organization Capacity Assessment Workshop

In November 2021, the coalition undertook a organization capacity assessment as part of institutional development.. The session was delivered in different occasion to Board of Directors, Secretariat, Coalition Members and other stakeholders. The organizational assessment aimed at assessing the strengths, weakness, opportunities and challenges to strengthen organization development. Three major priorities identified during the assessment included; Strategic Plan, Governance and Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation.

The outcome of this OCA was the development of Coalition WHRDs TZ a five years strategic plan of 2022-2026.



*Secretariat and Board Member meet for organization capacity development*

#### 3.6.2 Digital Security Support.

The secretariat of the Coalition received financial and technical support to assess the strengthen of its Digital Security information. The use of digital tools and information security and how to maintain its information's safe. The Assessment report produced with recommendations that will build digital security and protection for the Secretariat of the coalition.

### 3.6.3 Procure Office Working facilities

In 2021 the CWHRDs TZ was able to secure a rental offices and purchased various working equipment such as Desktops 2, Camera 1, office cabinets and other office facilities.

## 4.0 Organization's Overall Achievements

- The Coalition Successful launched 1 Online GBV campain
- Recognition and awarding of 6 WHRDs champions for the Year 2021
- Provided protection to more than 30 WHRDs
- Strong and strategic partnerships (TGNP, WILDAF, THRDC, GCCTC)
- Increased awareness on issues of WHRDs
- Provided capacity building to more than 300 WHRDs and other stakeholders
- Established strong collaboration with government institutions
- Established strong relationship between the Coalition and Development Partners
- Proactive on talking emerging issues
- Trust and the essence of the Coalition growth ( 2019 =11 members,2020=26 members and 2021=76 members)
- The Coalition contributed in enactment of by-laws, and amendments of various laws

## 5.0 Challenges

- Shortage of financial resources to cover all coalition expenses (staff volunteer, office space e.t.c)
- Non proactive of some member to issues on WHRDs that needs solidarity
- COVID 19 pandemic
- Technological challenges
- Understanding of WHRDs Agenda by stakeholders
- Cost of living adjustment to WHRDs
- Restrictive Laws
- Duplication of efforts by CSOs

## 6. Development Partners

Global Fund for Women  
UN OHCHR East Africa Regional Office  
Urgent Action Funds Africa  
Frontline defenders.  
Vital Voices for Global Partnership  
American Donor

## 7.0 Our Focus for next five years 2022- 2026



- Finalizing and implementation of five year Strategic Plan to guide the organization on its operation for 2022 to 2026



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