



**COALITION FOR WOMEN HUMAN RIGHTS  
DEFENDERS TANZANIA**

**Report for Mapping of Women Human Rights  
Defenders in Tanzania**

**November 2022**

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## List of Abbreviation and Acronyms

CBOs	Community Based Organizations
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
COVID-19	Corona Virus Disease -19
CWHRDs Tz	Coalition for Women Human Rights Defenders Tanzania
GBV	Gender Based Violence
ICT	Information, Communication, Technology
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
PhD	Doctor of Philosophy
SRHR	Sexual Reproductive Health and Right
UN	United Nations
WHRDs	Women Human Rights Defenders

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## Acknowledgement

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The implementation of this mapping exercise included development of methodology and data collection tools, fieldwork, data analysis and report writing. I appreciate the support of our donor, Civil Rights Defenders (CRD) for the financial support. I appreciate the support of President's Office Regional Administration and Local Government who provided us with permission letter to undertake the mapping in the country. I also appreciate the support of Board of Directors of CWHRD TZ who worked tirelessly to guide the proper execution of the exercise. I would also like to extend my sincere appreciation to the Local Government Authorities in different regions and Districts where the mapping was conducted for their readiness to accept our data collectors and suffice them with necessary data about the mapping.

Lastly but not least, I extend my thanks to all Women Human Rights Defenders in Tanzania who were ready to provide data and essential information during data collection exercise in the field.

The CWHRDs TZ would not have been able to accomplish this mapping and reporting without the acknowledged parties.

## Executive Summary

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### Introduction

Women Human Rights Defenders (WHRDs) are women from all ages who are engaged to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms and all people who engage in the defense of the rights of women and gender equality, individually and in association with others.<sup>1</sup>

Despite understanding that there are committed and active women human rights defenders in Tanzania working to protect and promote human rights for women, girls and other marginalized groups, who are facing challenges such as false arrested, defamed and imprisoned, little information is available on roles they play in the grounds and challenges they face. Most of the existing studies provide information of WHRDs with specific thematic areas such as those working on land rights, inheritance and journalism. The available data from other players in the field contain general information about women human right defenders covering many topics lacking inadequate information about women human rights defenders who face challenges that require specific attention.

### Mapping Purpose

This mapping report provides information about WHRDs in Tanzania, their roles and responsibilities, geographical location and challenges they face when performing their duties. The mapping report establishes evidence-based advocacy information and strengthens advocacy roles of National WHRDs dealing with women, girls and other marginalized groups rights in Tanzania.

### Methodology

The mapping covered various areas such as demographic information, responsibility and roles of WHRDs, climate change related GBV/discrimination, WHRDs needs assessment, communication methods used by WHRDs for Advocacy and challenges they face.

The mapping conducted between October and November 2022 covered six zones and 19 regions in Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar, reaching out to 120 respondents and 10 key informants. The quantitative data were collected through physical and online questionnaire with closed and open-ended questions. The closed-ended questions collected uniform responses from respondents in the field while open-ended questions probed more on the issues emerged from a particular respondent.

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<sup>1</sup> OHCHR. Information Series on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights: Women Human Rights Defenders. 2020

Additional data was collected through key informants' interview mostly targeting local government officials to obtain more information on WHRDs, particularly their relationship with government, and their safety and security issues.

### Key Findings

- Good number of WHRDs participate in events intended to campaign against gender-based violence, promote women's economic rights, protect women's GBV survivors and promote women's political participation.
- Majority of WHRDs think that violence against women and girls is the most important right to be addressed in their localities as well as violence against children and women's economic rights
- Climate change impacts contribute to all five major categories of gender based-violence – physical, psychological, economical, emotional and social.
- The majority of WHRDs need their capacity to be increased in the area of advocacy, skills to campaign for violence against women and girls, violence against children and skills on the promotion of sexual reproductive health and right.
- Social media is the most preferred means of communication by the WHRDs in Tanzania, closely followed meetings, seminars and workshops as well as interpersonal communication such as door to door campaign.
- Majority of WHRDs face challenges of securing adequate funds to execute their roles and responsibilities, inadequate advocacy knowledge and skills necessary for effective carrying out their roles and responsibilities and inadequate communication skills.
- The communities are the main perpetrators of violence/discrimination against WHRDs, followed by traditional leaders, religious leaders and government officials.

## Section One: Introduction

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Women human rights defenders are women from all ages who are engaged to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms and all people who engage in the defense of the rights of women and gender equality, individually and in association with others.<sup>2</sup>

According to the UN Declaration of Human Rights Defenders of 1998, human rights defenders often become the target of violations and abuses because of the nature of the activities they carry out and the issues they raise.<sup>3</sup> This is because they are often perceived as challenging traditional norms of family and gender roles in society, a perception that can generate hostility from State actors and from the public, the media, and faith based groups, the community, family and other non-state actors.<sup>4</sup>

The Coalition for Women's Human Rights Defenders Tanzania was established to address unique and specific challenges and rights facing women human rights defenders in the country.

Despite understanding that there are committed and active women human rights defenders working to protect and promote the rights of women, girls and other marginalized groups in the society, they are facing challenges such as false arrested, defamed and imprisoned. However, little information is available on their existence, roles they play in the grounds and challenges they face. Most of the existing studies provide information of WHRDs with specific thematic areas such as those working on land rights, inheritance and journalists. The available data from other players in the field contain general information about women human right defenders covering many topics. As a result, their reports contain inadequate and specific information about women human rights defenders who face challenges that are unique, which calls for specific attention.

This mapping report provides information about WHRDs Tanzania roles and responsibilities, geographical location and security challenges they face when performing their duties. The mapping report establishes evidence-based advocacy information and strengthens advocacy roles of National WHRDs dealing with women, girls and other marginalized groups rights in Tanzania.

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<sup>2</sup> OHCHR. Information Series on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights: Women Human Rights Defenders. 2020

<sup>3</sup> UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders 1998. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/issues/srhdefenders/pages/declaration.aspx>. Cited on 28 February 2022.

<sup>4</sup> OHCHR. Information Series on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights: Women Human Rights Defenders. 2020

## Objectives of the Mapping Exercise

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The overall objective of mapping was to establish evidence-based information in order to strengthen the advocacy roles of Women Human Rights Defenders in addressing the rights of women, girls and other marginalized groups in Tanzania.

The specific objectives of the assessment are:

- (i) To study the roles and responsibilities played by WHRDs in the promotion of women, girls and other marginalized groups rights in Tanzania.
- (ii) To document locality and challenges including security facing WHRDs TZ when executing their duties to promote women's, girls' and other marginalized groups rights in Tanzania.
- (iii) To assess WHRDs needs to establishes their capacity gaps for future targeted intervention on capacity building.
- (iv) To document the communication methods of WHRDs in Tanzania to establish communication strengths and gaps for future support of WHRDs Tz to deliver better communication plans to increase their communication roles for advocacy.

## Scope of the Mapping

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The mapping was conducted between October and November 2022 covering 19 regions in Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar. The mapping covered the following parts:-

**Part A:** Demographic information, focused on basic background that intended to gather information related to names of defenders, location, organization, designation, age, marital status, mobile numbers, education and employment of the respondents.

**Part B:** Responsibility of WHRDs, focused on gathering information to understand their roles and responsibilities. It also focused on understanding the extent WHRDs are active to demand human rights especially the rights of women, girls, youth, PWDs and other marginalized groups.

**Part C:** Climate change related GBV/Discrimination focused on information examining the extent climate change impacts increase gender-based violence and discrimination against women, girls and other marginalized groups as well as roles of WHRDs to address the violations.

**Part D:** Needs assessment covered capacity needs that WHRDs indicated as their requirements to better execute their duties. The needs include getting training in various areas such as Advocacy, Communication, Intimate Partners Violence, SRHR, Climate Changes adaption and ICTs.

**Part E:** Ways of Communication and Advocacy focused more on understanding WHRDs methods of communication for enhancing advocacy on the rights of women, girls and other marginalized groups. This also focused on understanding the kind of content they disseminated through these methods.

**Part F:** Challenges focused on identifying challenges including security facing WHRDs in advancing women, girls and other marginalized groups rights. It also looked on causes of the challenges and what should be done to address them.

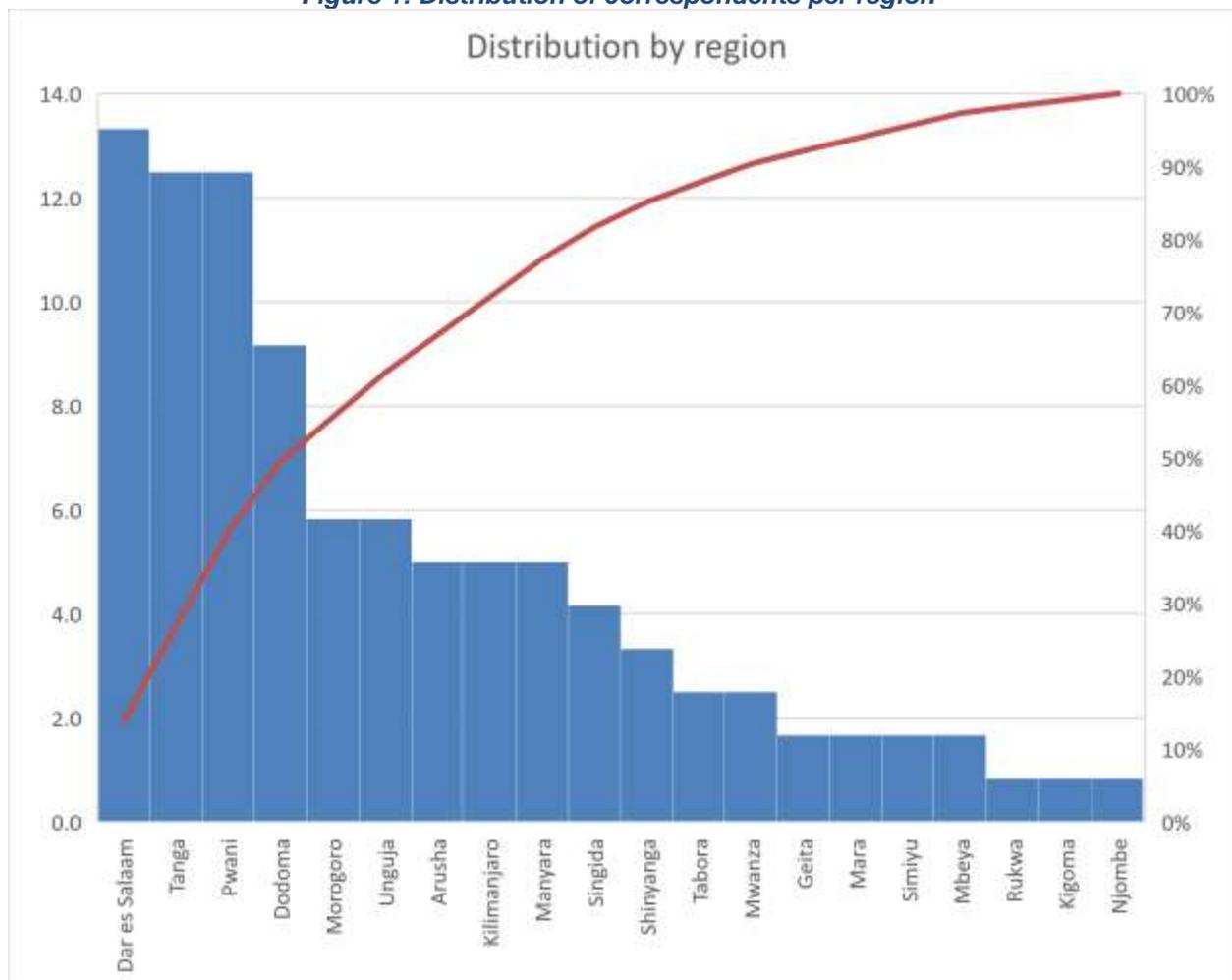
## **Methodology of the Mapping**

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### **Respondents of the Mapping**

The respondents of this mapping exercise were individual women human rights defenders from seven zones together with key informants who were local government officers from the districts where mapping was conducted. The following table shows a number of women human rights defenders from different zones and regions of Tanzania. Some regions such as Coastal and Tanga were given a priority because the Coalition has existing projects there.

**Figure 1: Distribution of correspondents per region**



Source: Field data, 2022

## Mapping Design, Sampling and Data Collection

### Mapping Design

The study used various methods to sample, collect, analyze, interpret and report information. The study was particularly targeting WHRDs in Tanzania. It purposely selected specific areas of coverage and targeted specific population in order to reach out to Women Human Rights Defenders. The areas covered with Coalition for Women Human Rights Defenders projects got more coverage than others in order to get more experience from the women human rights defenders benefited from Coalition's projects.

However, the study ensured that respondents were from all six zones in order to capture zonal experience of WHRDs.

## **Sampling**

Purposive sampling was used to select individual respondents and key informants from seven zones. On the other hand, districts, wards/villages/shehia were purposely selected depending on the availability of WHRDs in that place. About 120 respondents were reached for interview from all zones and regions as well as 10 key informants at the local level.

## **Data Collection**

The data collection tools were designed to collect both quantitative and qualitative data. The quantitative data were collected through physical and online questionnaire with closed and open-ended questions. The closed-ended questions collected uniform responses from respondents in the field while open-ended questions were intended to dig more on the issues emerged from a particular respondent. The study preferred questionnaire to collect quantitative data from field such as examining roles and responsibilities played by WHRDs, their challenges and assessment of their needs through a supervised administered and online self-administered questions.

Additional data was collected through key informants' interview mostly targeting local government officials to obtain more information on WHRDs, particularly their relationship with government, and their safety and security issues.

Data collection started with the development of data collection tools including Key Informants Guide as well as electronic data collection questionnaires for individual respondents.

The consultant visited some zonal areas to administer data collection exercise include central, northern and eastern zones.

To comply with government's legal requirements, the Coalition obtained permission from the Ministry of Community Development to conduct mapping. This was also important for acceptance at local level and safety and security of data collectors.

### **Data Analysis and Reporting**

The consultant reviewed and analyzed all materials that were submitted after the field visit, quantitative data entry and data cleaning. Responses of quantitative data were accessed electronically. This facilitated data entry, easy sorting, modification and manipulating and analysis of data for report generation. Thematic analysis facilitated analysis of qualitative data through categorization of the narration of key informants and to support findings obtained through quantitative assessment.

**Section Two: Key Findings, Recommendations and Lessons Learned**

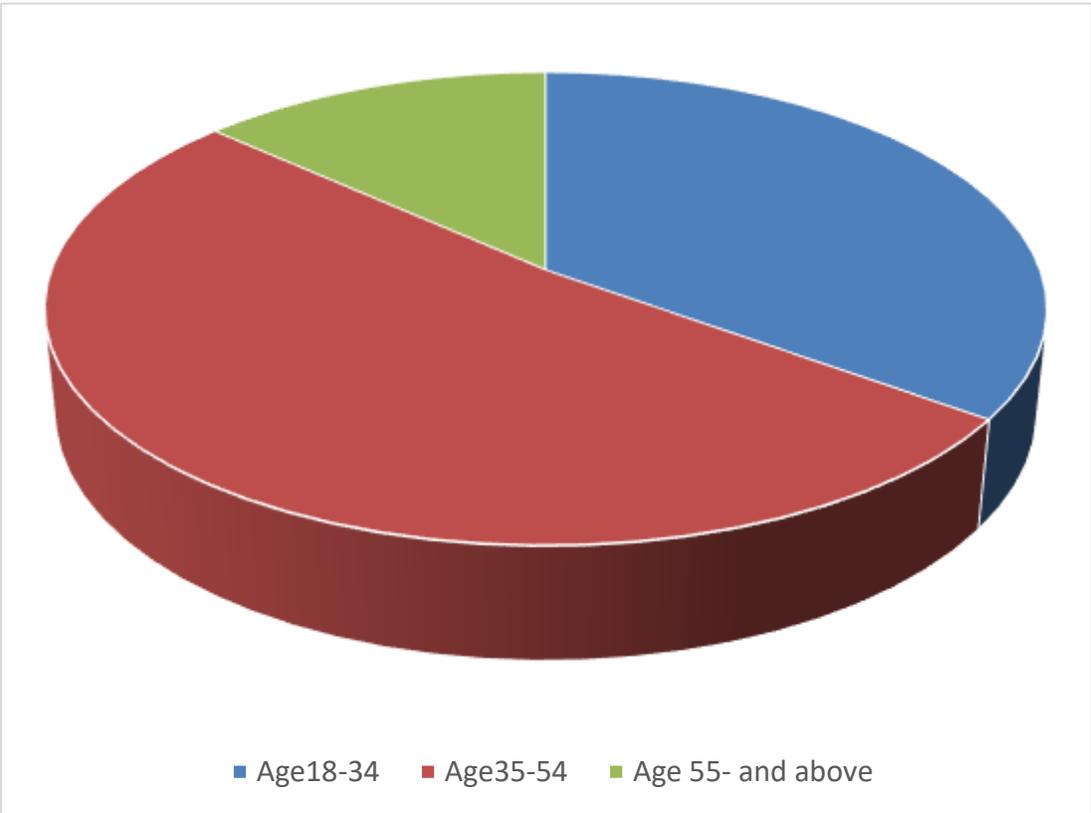
**WHRDs Mapping Key Findings**

**Part A: Demographic information**

**Age group of Respondents**

Most respondents were from the age of 35- 54. This information tells that most WHRDs start to be active in that age. There is also good number of WHRD under age group of 18-34. Few WHRDs are at the age group of 55 and above. See figure below.

**Figure 2:** Distribution of correspondents per age group

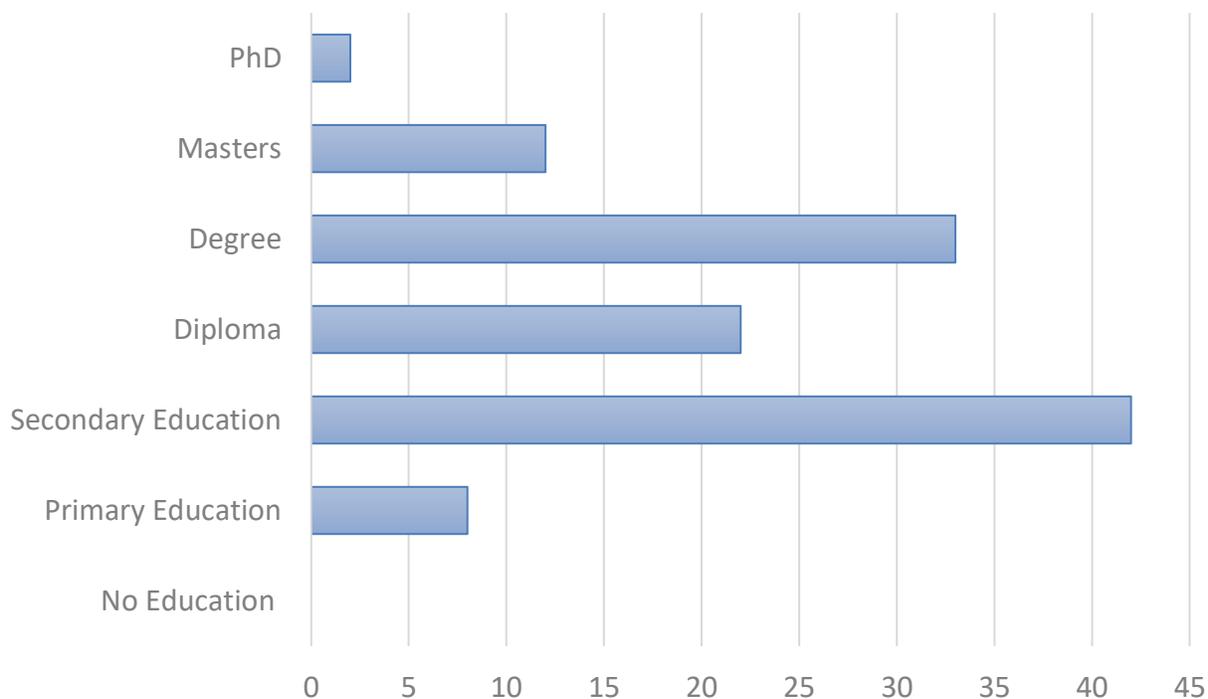


Source: Field data, 2022

### **Level of Education**

Most respondents fall under secondary school education, closely followed by degree level education, diploma and masters. There are few WHRDs with primary and PhD level education. See figure below.

**Figure 3:** Respondents Level of Education

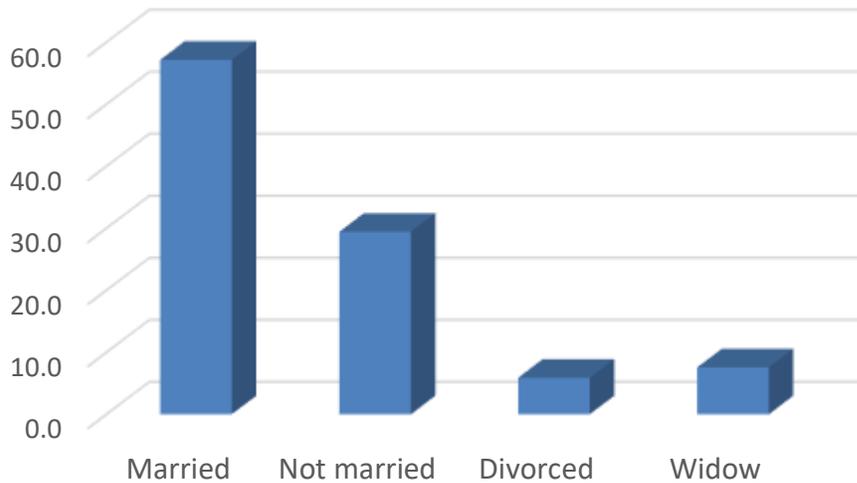


Source: Field data, 2022

### **Marital Status**

Majority of WHRDs, according to this mapping, are married. This clears the popular notion in the community that WHRDs are either divorced or are not married due to their women human right defending roles.

**Figure 4:** Respondents Marital status

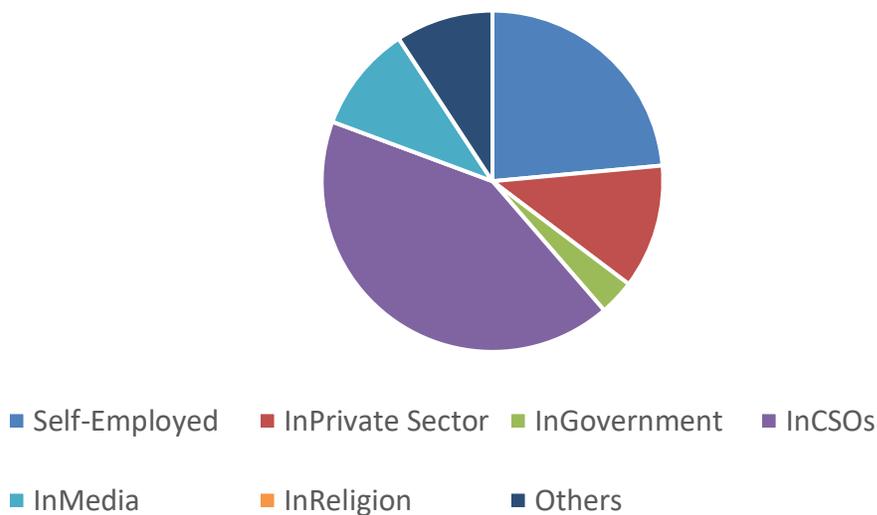


Source: Field data, 2022

### ***Employment Status***

Employment status was one of the data collected in this mapping. According to the findings, Most WHRDs work with Civil Society Organizations and Private sector. See figure below

**Figure 5:** Respondents Employment Status

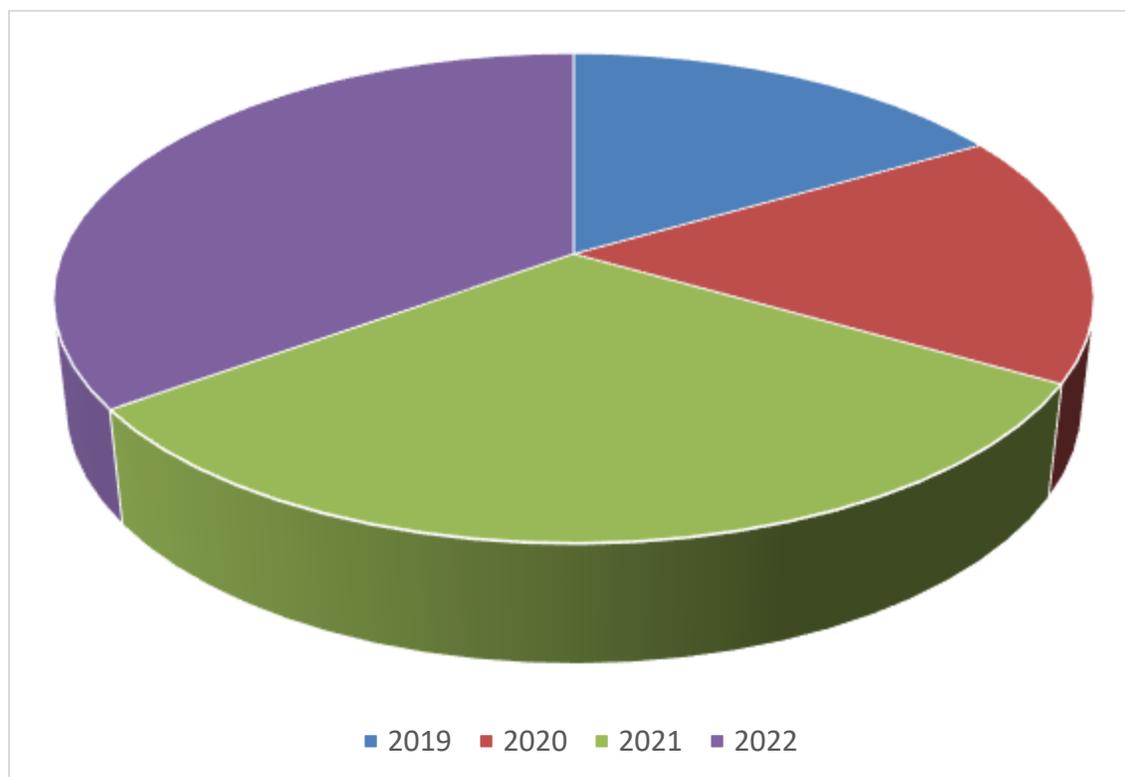


Source: Field data, 2022

### ***Year Joined the Coalition***

Most WHRDs, according to the findings, joined the Coalition for Women Human Rights Defenders in 2021 and 2022. This shows that the agenda of WHRDs is increasingly be understood by the majority with time. See figure below

**Figure 6:** Year WHRD joined the Coalition



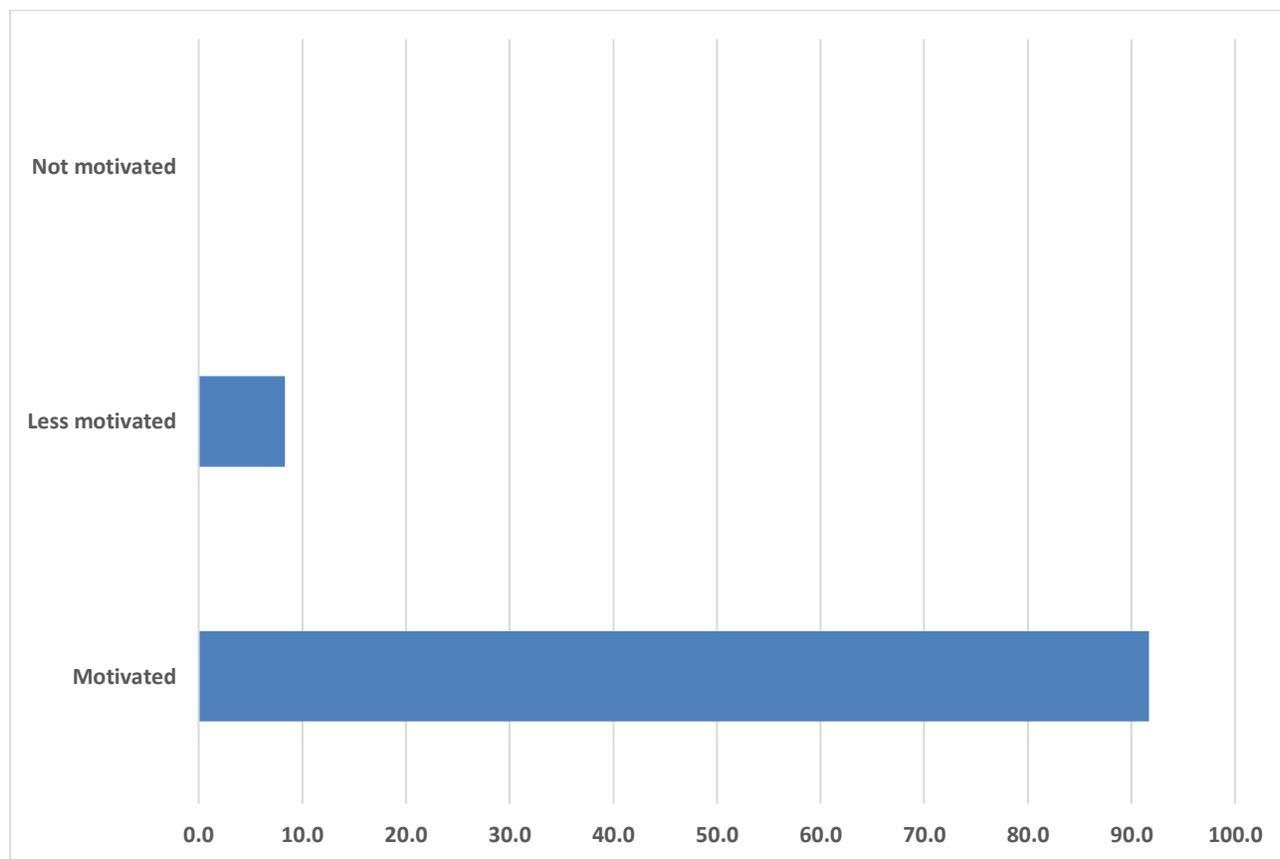
Source: Field data, 2022

### **Part B: WHRDs Roles and Responsibilities**

The assessment, with regard to roles and responsibilities of Women Human Rights Defenders found that majority of respondents have high motivation to promote women and other marginalized groups rights in Tanzania. However, there are few women human rights defenders who expressed less motivation to promote women and other marginalized rights, despite being ready to be identified as women human rights defenders. Statistically, 91.7% of respondents are highly motivated to champion women and other marginalized rights while 8.3% are less motivated. This indicates the essence of CWHRDs TZ to play its role as an umbrella organization to the groups of WHRDs who

have courage to fight for women and other marginalized rights all over the country. On the other hand, the findings shows that there are WHRDs who are ready to support women and other marginalized groups rights but they lack motivation. The challenges identified in this study such as inadequate of financial support and threat from community may contribute to their lack of motivation. See figure no. 7 below

**Figure 7:** Interest in promoting women and other marginalized groups rights

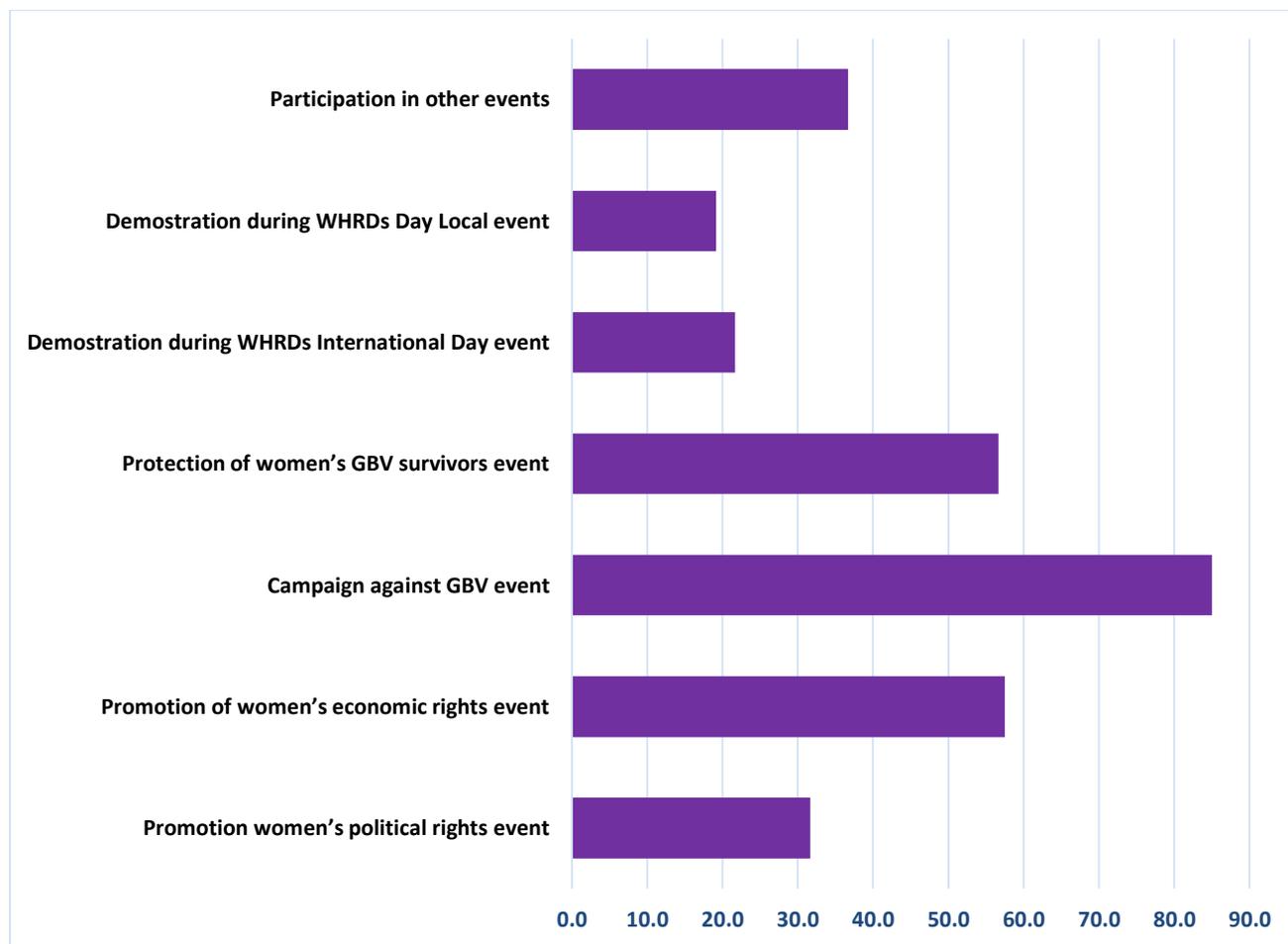


Source: Field data, 2022

The assessment findings about respondents' participation in the events to promote women and other marginalized groups rights have shown majority of WHRDs do participate. The findings show that 94.2% of respondents participated in various events while 5.8% did not participate at all. Majority of respondents 85% participated in the events to campaign against gender based violence, 57.5% participated in the event related to the

promotion of women’s economic rights while 56.7% in the protection of women’s and girls’ GBV survivors. On the other hand, 31.6% participated in the promotion of women’s political rights, 21.7% in the demonstration during WHRDs international day while 19.2% in the demonstration on the WHRDs local events. Others, 36.7 participated in other events to promote women and other marginalized groups rights. See figure No. 8 below

**Figure 8:** Participation in women and other marginalized groups rights events

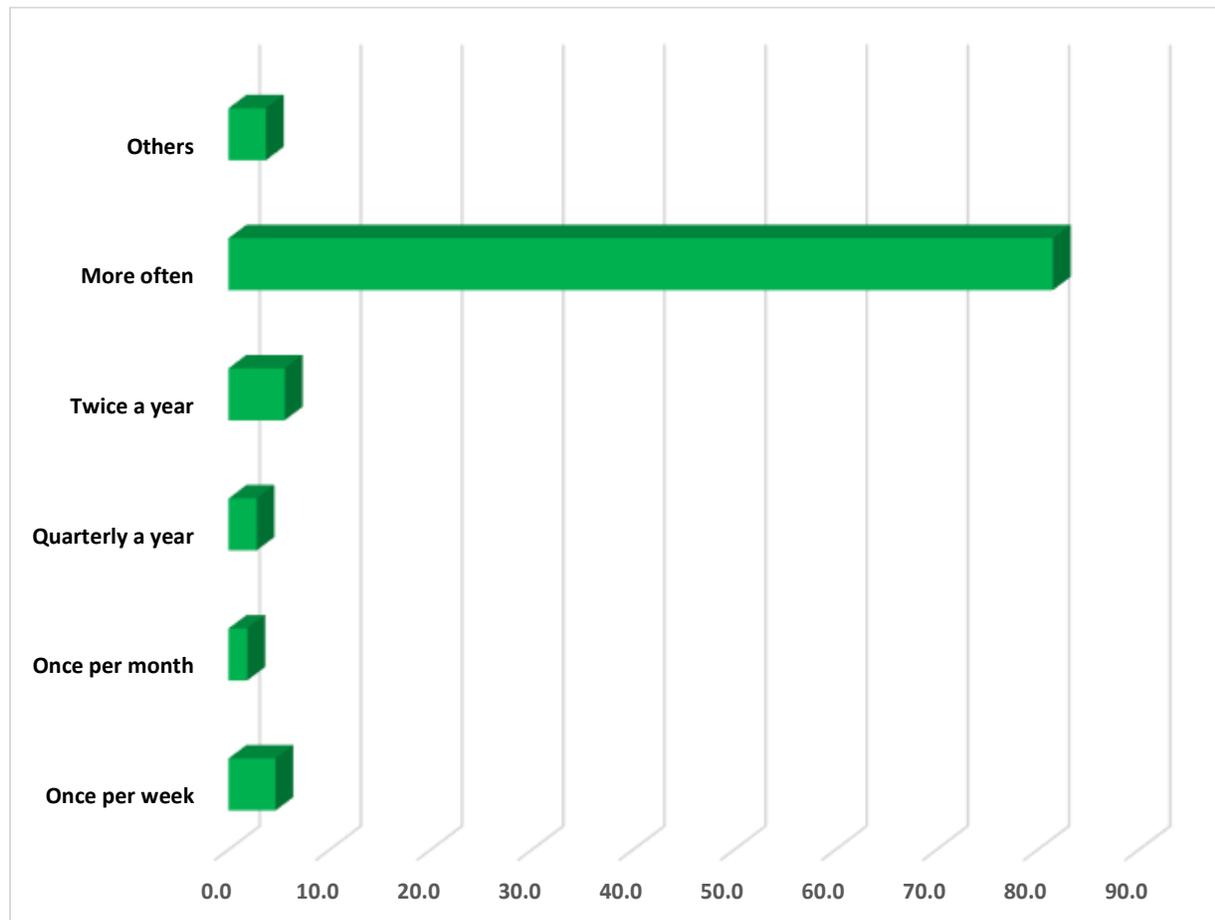


Source: Field data, 2022

One of the most important indicators that WHRDs do promote rights of women and other marginalized groups is to understand the frequency they play that role. The study findings show that majority of WHRDs in Tanzania more frequently play the roles and responsibilities to promote women and other marginalized rights. According to the findings, 81.5% of WHRD most frequently play this role. Minimal number of them, 5.6%

play the role twice a year, 4.6% once per week, 2.8% quarterly per annum and 1.9% once per month. See figure No. 9 below

**Figure 9:** Frequency of promoting women and other marginalized groups rights

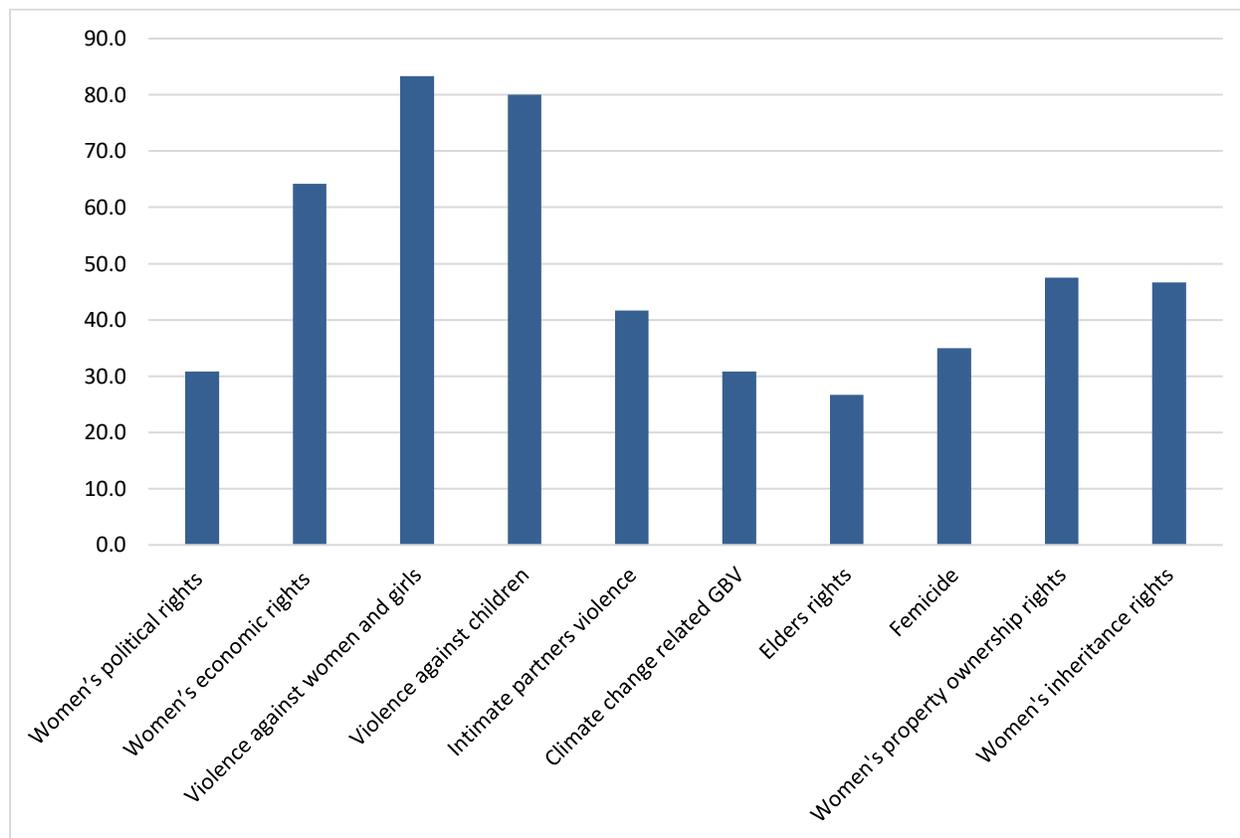


Source: Field data, 2022

The study assessed the kind of rights related to women and other marginalized groups that WHRDs normally address in their localities. The most addressed right in the list, according to the findings, is violence against women and girls (83.3%) closely followed by addressing violence against children (80%). Other issues include women’s economic rights (64.2%), women’s property ownership right (47.5%) and women’s inheritance rights (46.7%). The fight against intimate partners’ violence scored 41.7%, Femicide

(35%), women’s political rights 30.8%, climate change related GBV 30.8% and addressing elders rights 26.7%. See figure No. 10 below

**Figure 10:** Women and other marginalized groups rights to be addressed by WHRDs in their localities



Source: Field data, 2022

### Part C: Climate Change Related GBV/Discrimination

The study examined the kind of climate change GBV/discrimination to establish the roles of WRDs in addressing climate change impacts which increase violence against women, girls and other marginalized groups rights. The findings revealed that climate change impacts contribute to all five major categories of GBV – physical (72.5%), psychological (47.5%), economical (37.5%), emotional (37.5%) and social (25%). See figure 11 below

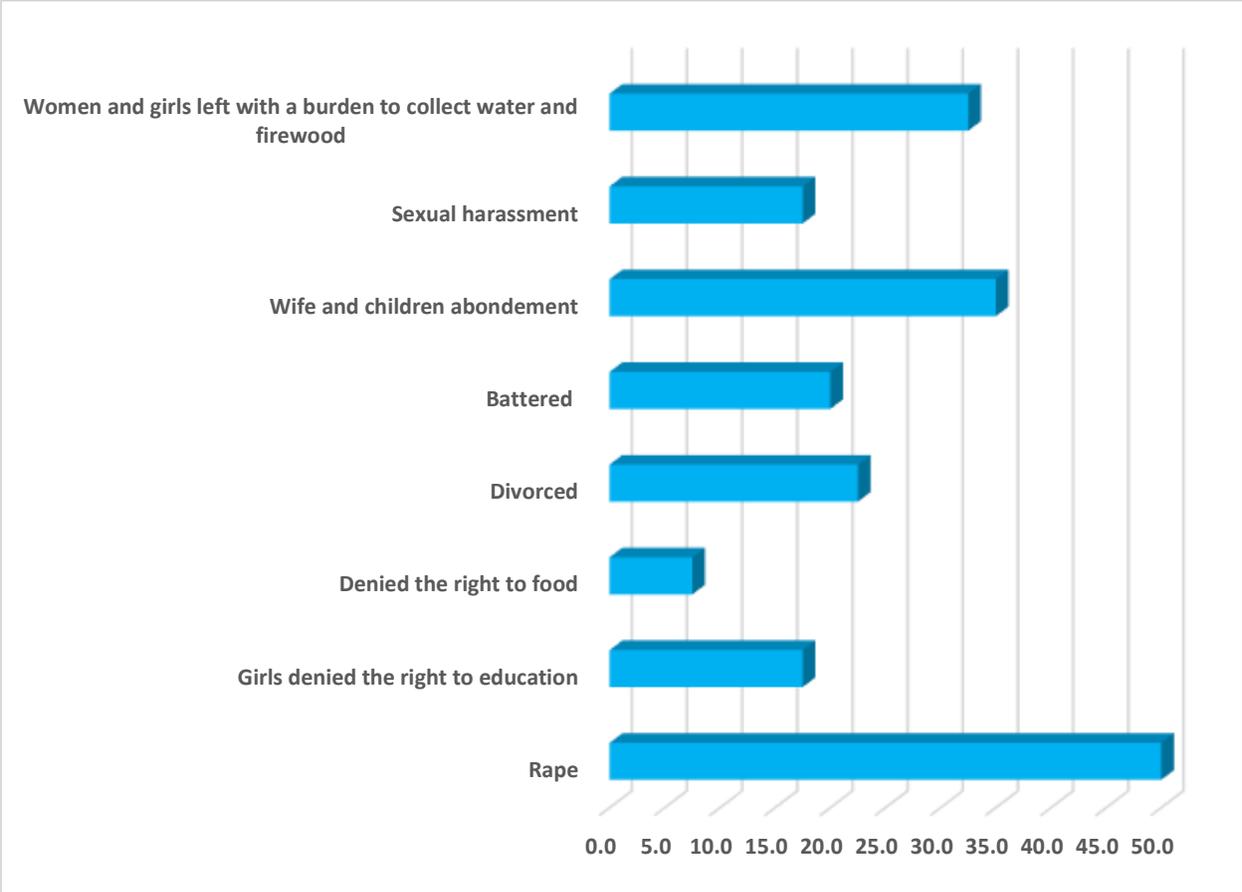
**Figure 11:** Major categories of GBV related to climate change facing women and girls



Source: Field data, 2022

On the type of GBV/discrimination facing women, girls and other marginalized groups related to climate change, majority said rape (50%) is leading gender-based violence which is mostly happening when women and girls go to fetch water and collection of firewood. Wife and children abandonment is another violence facing women and girls during climate change impacts as climate change increases cost of living due to inadequate of food as well as its impacts in economy especially cash crops. This increases the chance of men to run away from their localities to search for better life somewhere else, leaving the family alone and therefore increasing burden for women and girls to attend the family. Another discrimination identified is to leave the burden of fetching water and firewood to women and girls (32.5%), most women being divorced (22.5%), wife battery (20%), girls denied the right to education (17.5%), sexual harassment (17.5%), and children denied the right to food (7.5%). See Figure 12 below.

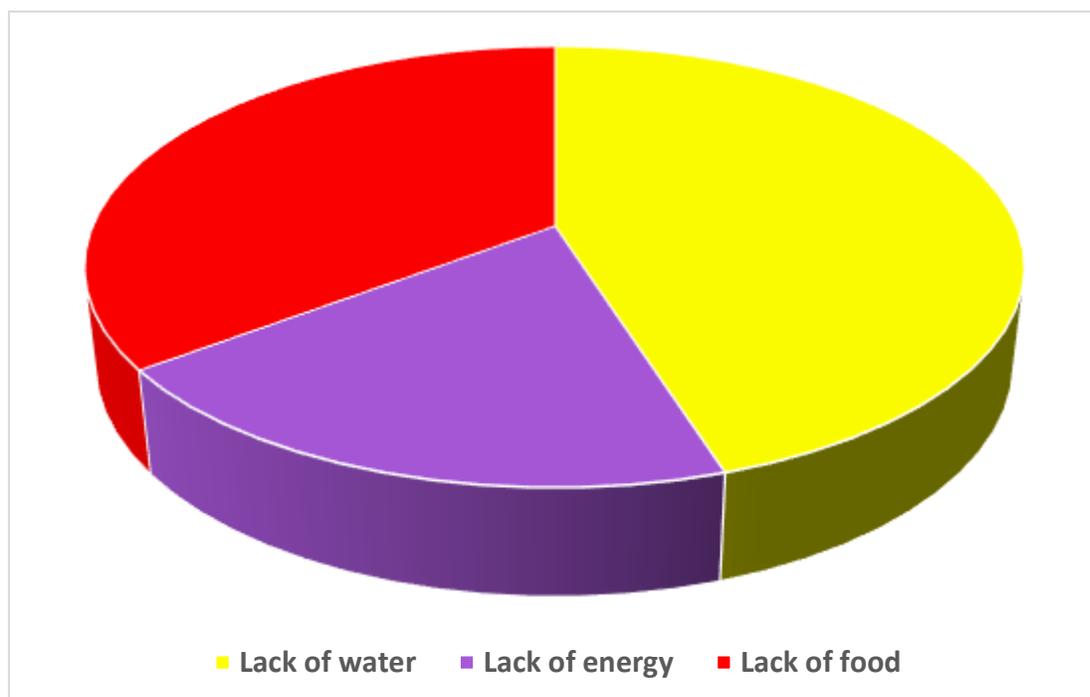
**Figure 12:** GBV/discrimination facing women and girls because of climate change



Source: Field data, 2022

The study also examined the major causes of climate change impacts GBV/discrimination to women, girls and other marginalized groups. Majority of respondents (50%) said inadequate of water is the major cause of climate change related GBV/discrimination. However, 45% of respondents attributed climate change related GBV/discrimination with inadequate of food and 25% with inadequate of energy. See Figure 13 below.

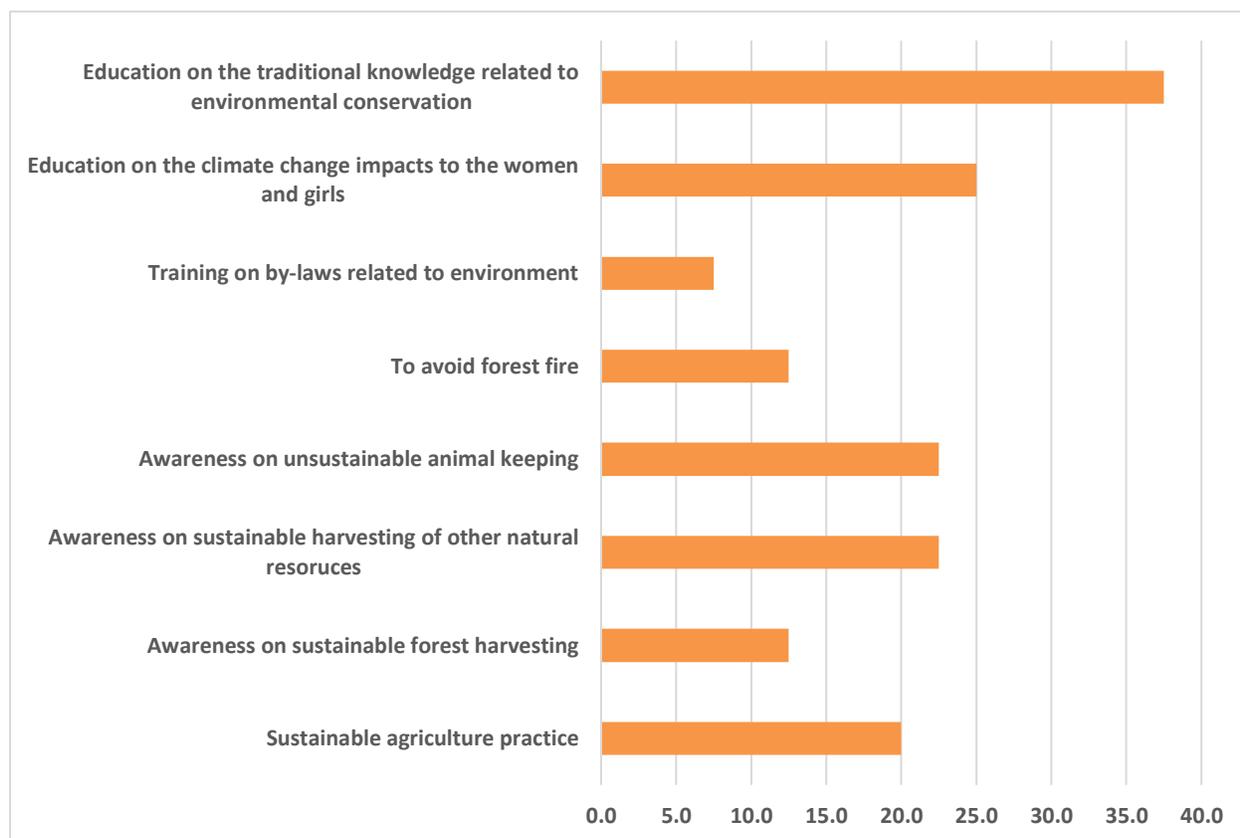
**Figure 13:** Major causes of climate change GBV/discrimination



Source: Field data, 2022

In addition, the study examined the kind of education given by WHRDs to the community on mitigation of climate change impacts. Most respondents (37.5%) said they raised awareness on the traditional knowledge related to environmental conservation in their localities. These include traditional methods of forest and water sources conservation. Other respondents (22.5%) said they raised awareness on sustainable ways of harvesting natural resources, sustainable ways of livestock keeping (22.5%), sustainable ways of agricultural practices (20%), sustainable ways of forest harvesting (12.5%), ways to avoid bush fire (12.5%) and training communities on by-laws related to environmental conservation (7.5%). See Figure 14 below.

**Figure 14:** Education by WHRDs for the community to mitigate climate change impacts



Source: Field data, 2022

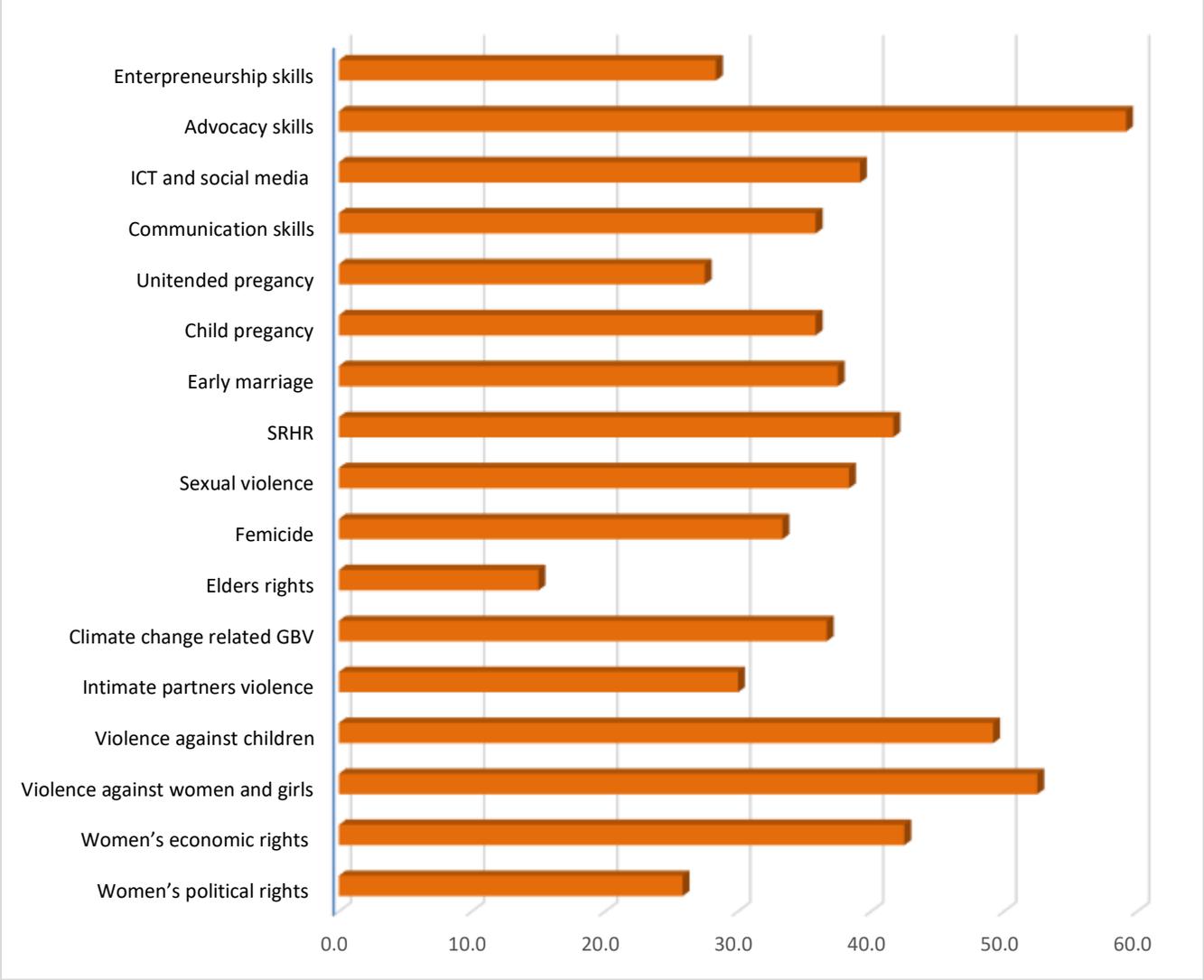
### Part D: WHRDs Capacity Needs

The study examined the kind of needs that WHRDs require from development partners, government and other stakeholders to effectively play their role to promote women and other marginalized groups rights. The findings revealed that majority of WHRDs need their capacity to be increased in the area of advocacy (59.2%), closely followed by skills on how to better fight violence against women and girls (52.5%), violence against children (49.2%) and skills on how to promote sexual reproductive health and rights (41.7%).

The second line of capacity need is on ICT and Social media (39.2%), effectively fighting sexual violence (38.3%), skills to address early marriage and unintended pregnancy (37.5%), effectively addressing climate change related GBV (36.7%), communication

skills (35.8%), addressing child pregnancy (35.8%), skills to fight femicide (33.3%), and to fight intimate partners violence (30%). Others indicated that they need entrepreneurship skills (28.3%), to better fight unintended pregnancies (27.5%), women’s political rights (25.8%) and skills to fight against elders rights (15%). Illustration is in the figure 15 below.

**Figure 15:** Areas of capacity need of WHRDs to effectively promote women and other marginalized groups rights



Source: Field data, 2022

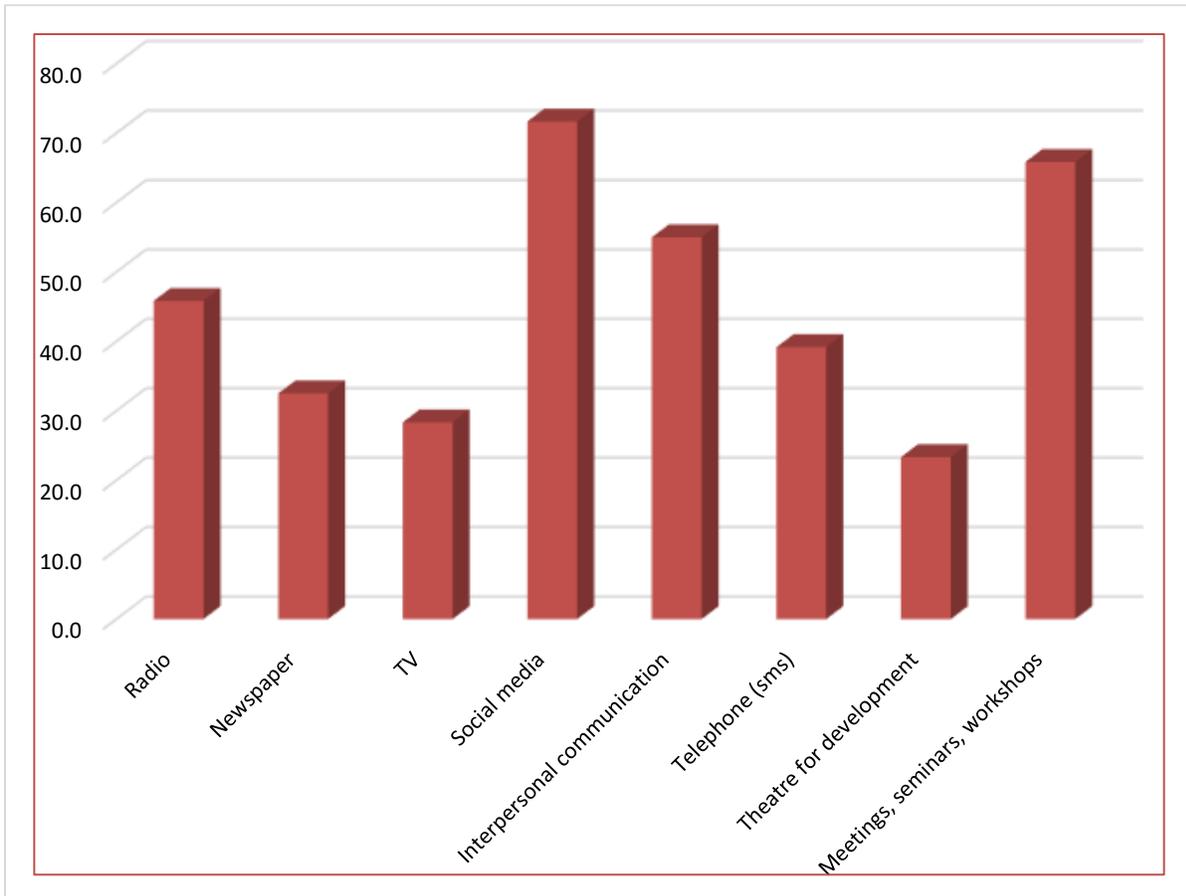
### Part E: WHRDs Communication Methods

The study assessed types of communication methods that WHRDs use to reach their audiences in the course of advocacy and raising awareness on women and other marginalized groups rights in Tanzania. The findings reveal that social media is currently topping the list as the most used means of communication by the WHRDs in Tanzania (71.7%), closely followed by meetings, seminars and workshops (65.8%) and interpersonal communication such as door to door campaign (55%).

WHRDs also use mass media such as radio stations, TVs and newspapers. Among mass media as methods of communication radio is leading (45.8%), Newspapers (32.5%) and TV (28.3%).

Other means of communication is telephone (39.2%) and theatre for development (23.3%). See figure 16 below.

Figure 16: Communication methods to promote women and other marginalized groups rights

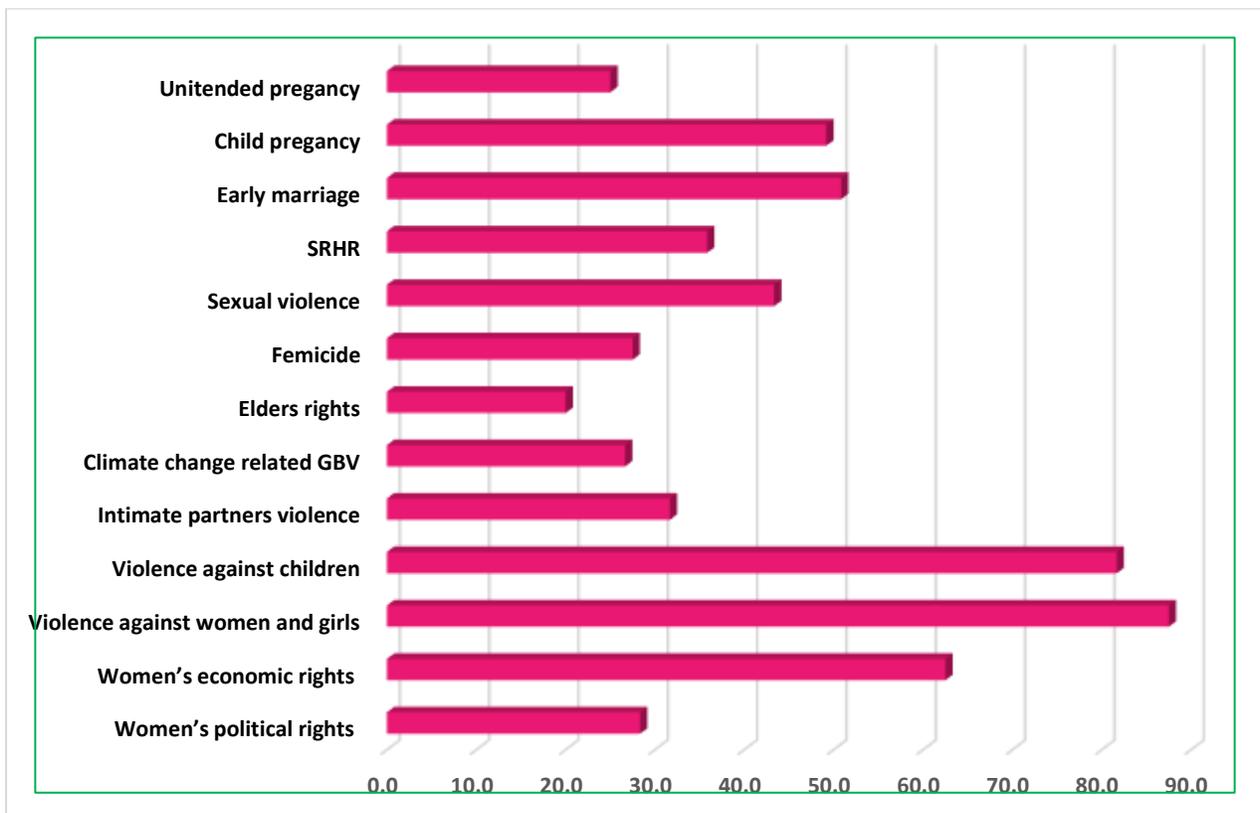


Source: Field data, 2022

The study also examined content that WHRDs deliver to audience through the channel of communication when playing their roles and responsibility to promote women and other marginalized groups rights. The findings show that violence against women and girls is the leading content (87.5%), violence against children (81.7%), women's economic rights (62.5%) and early marriage (50.8%). Other areas with content delivered to audience include child pregnancy (49.2%), sexual violence (43.3%), sexual reproductive health and rights (35.8%), intimate partners violence (31.7%), femicide (27.5%), climate change related GBV (26.7%) and unintended pregnancy (25%).

This information is essential to inform strategic communication when CWHRDs want to reach out to WHRDs to support their capacity on effective communication as one of essential elements in advocacy. See figure 17 below

**Figure 17:** Focus of the content to promote women and other marginalized groups rights

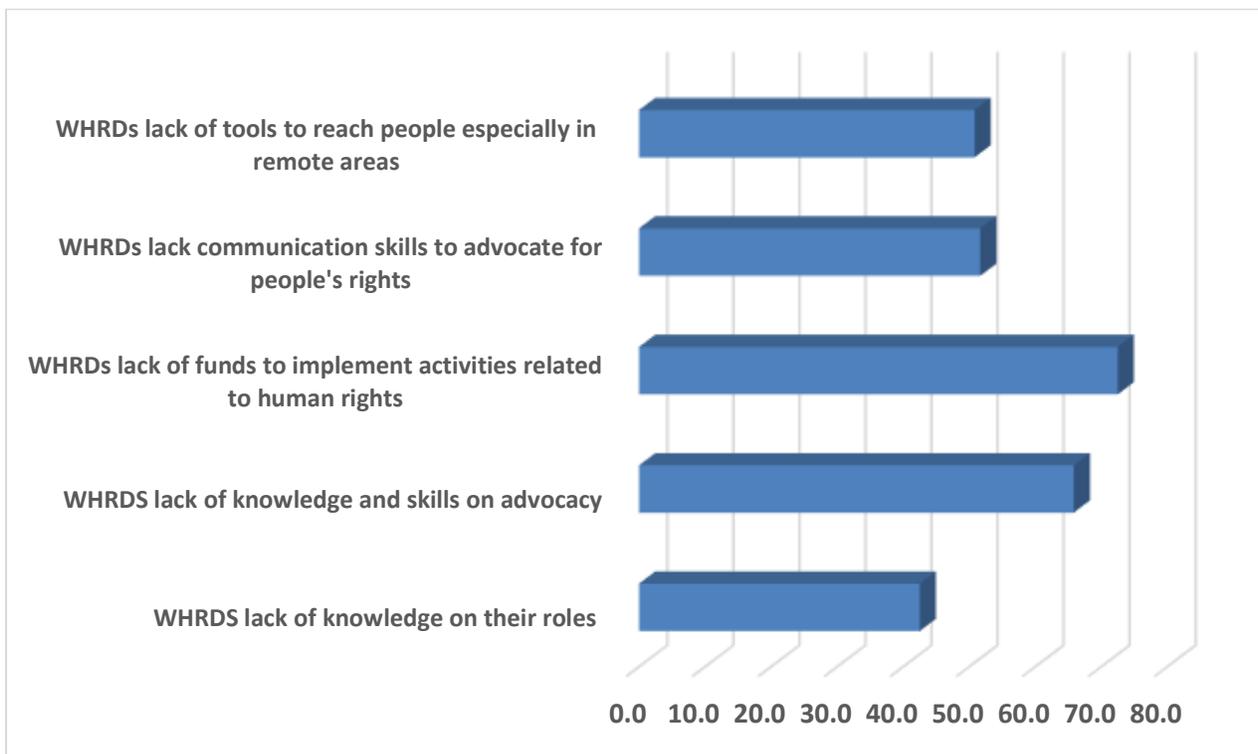


Source: Field data, 2022

## Part F: WHRDs Challenges

The study examined challenges that WHRDs face when carrying out their roles and responsibilities to promote women's and other marginalized groups rights. According to the findings, majority of WHRDs (72.5%) are faced with the challenge of securing enough funds to execute their roles and responsibilities. There is also group of WHRDs (65.8%) who do not have adequate advocacy knowledge and skills necessary for effective carryout their roles and responsibilities. Other WHRDs (51.7%) mentioned inadequate communication skills as one of the challenges that hinder them to play their roles to promote women's and other marginalized groups rights. Inadequate of tools and equipment to reach places where people in need of WHRDs services are located (50.8%), and WHRDs low understanding of their roles and responsibilities (42.5%). See figure 18 below

**Figure 18:** WHRDs challenges to promote women and other marginalized groups rights

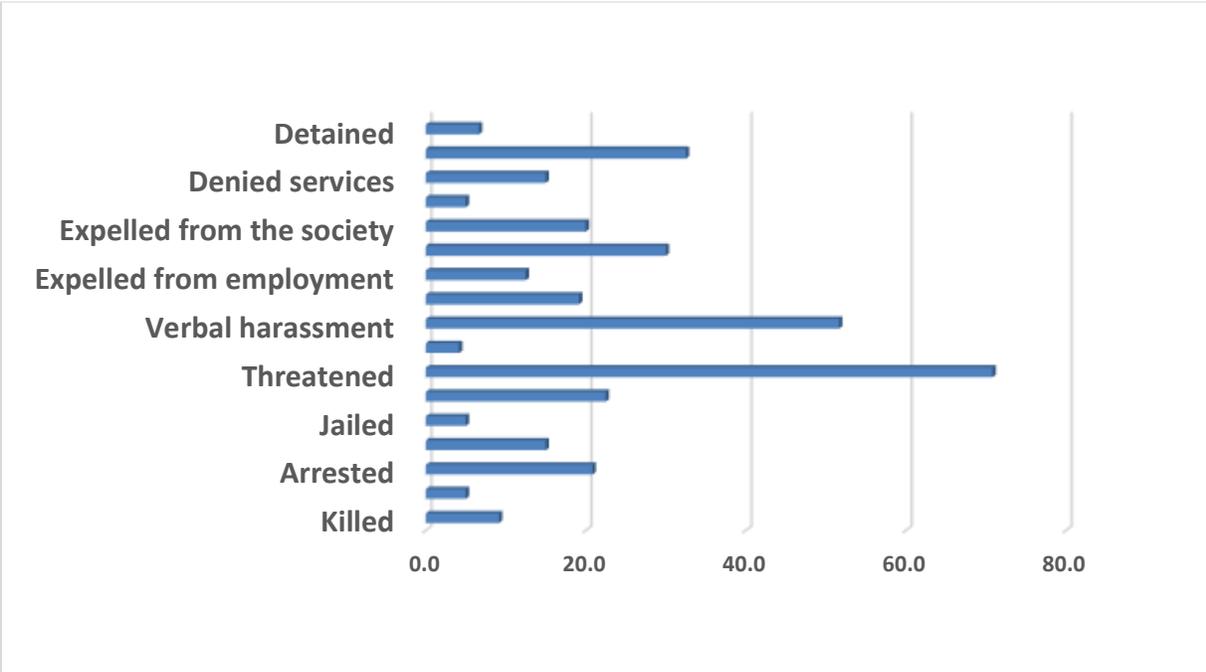


Source: Field data, 2022

The mapping also established kind of violence/discrimination that WHRDs face or are likely to face while on duty. In this regard, most WHRDs are threatened (70.8%), face verbal harassment (51.7%), are disrespected in the community (32.5%) and face digital harassment (30%). In addition, some respondents said WHRDs are beaten (22.5%), arrested (20.8%), expelled from the society (20%), face sexual harassment (19.2%), tortured (15%), denied service (15%), expelled from employment (12.5%), killed (9.2), detained (6.7%) and abducted, jailed and demoted from employment (each scored 5%).

.From the above findings, the women human rights defenders in Tanzania most frequently experienced threats as one of major violence/discrimination against them. During qualitative research, most key informants interviewed related this violation with inadequate awareness among members of the communities on the importance of roles and responsibilities WHRDs play in the society. As a result, they face threats ranging from verbal threats, digital threats and even superstition threats, which discourage them to continue executing their roles and responsibilities to promote women, girls and other marginalized groups rights. See figure 19 below

**Figure 19:** Violence/Discrimination facing WHRDs



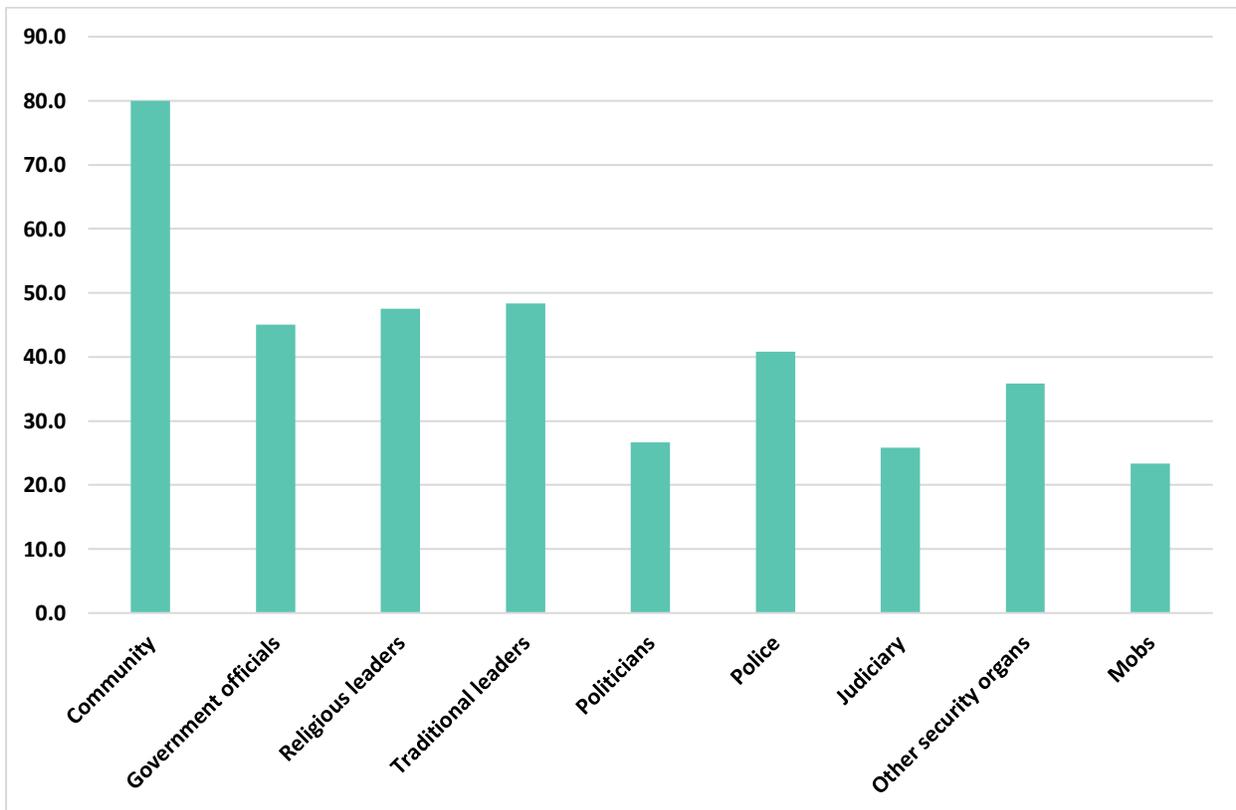
Source: Field data, 2022

## Part F: Main Perpetuators of WHRDs Challenges

The study examined the main perpetrators of violence/discrimination against WHRDs in Tanzania when carrying out their roles and responsibilities to promote women's and other marginalized groups rights. According to the findings, the communities are the main perpetrators of violence/discrimination of WHRDs (80%), followed by traditional leaders (48.3%), religious leaders (47.5%) and government officials (45%). Other perpetrators, according to the findings, are police (40.8%), other security organs (35.8%), politicians (26.7%), judiciary (25.8%) and mobs (23.3%).

These findings are important to determine and create understanding of the Coalition and other partners the kind of groups to target when dealing with security and safety of women human rights defenders in Tanzania. See figure 20 below

**Figure 20:** Main Perpetuators of Violence/Discrimination against WHRDs



Source: Field data, 2022

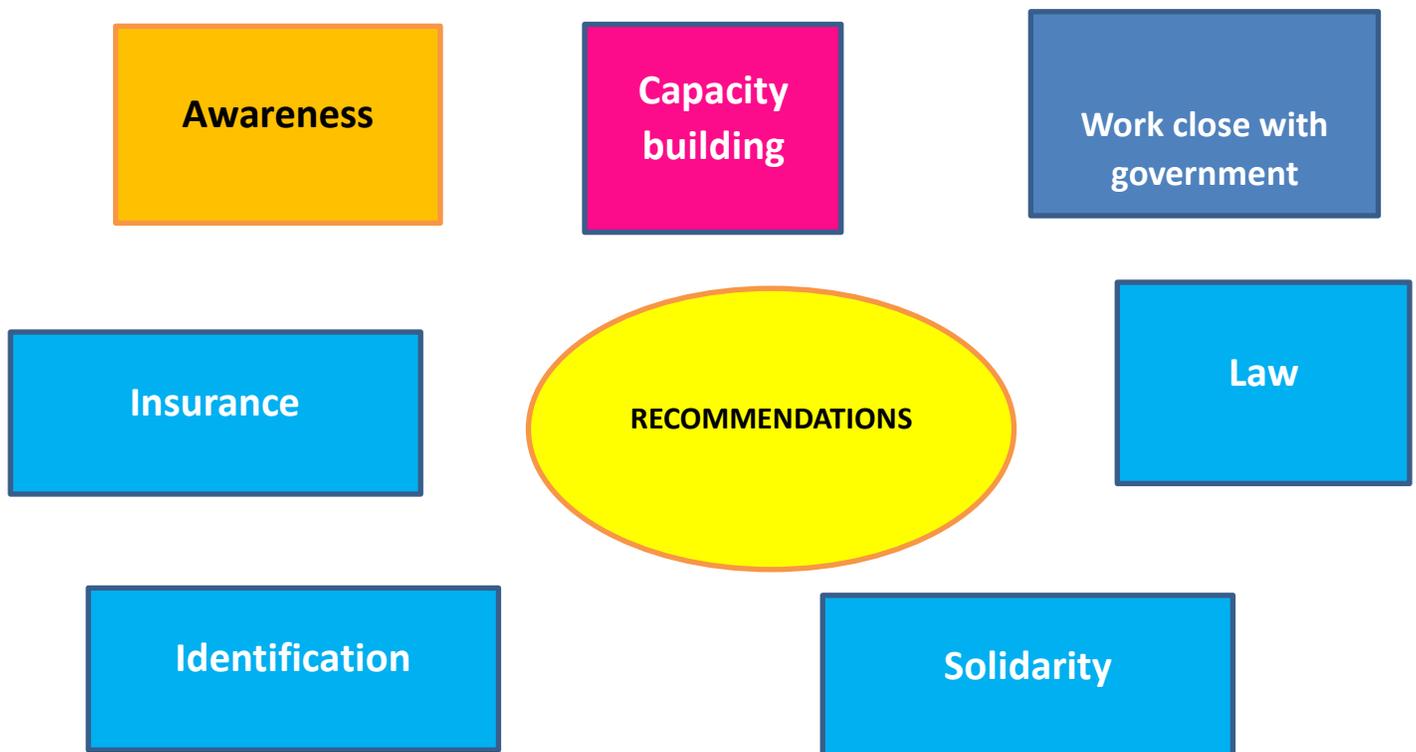
## Key Recommendations

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Most of the recommendations were based on.

- Community awareness.
- Capacity building
- Laws
- Relationship with government
- Solidarity
- Membership
- Funding
- Insurance
- Identification

**Figure 21:** Main recommendations of the mapping



Source: Field data, 2022

## **Awareness**

As most violence and discrimination practices against women human rights defenders are from the community, there is a need to increase efforts by government, CSOs, partners and other stakeholders to initiate and execute interventions to increase community awareness on the roles and responsibilities of WHRDs. The community needs to be aware about human rights, national and international laws governing human rights. The awareness on Women Human Rights Defenders agenda should also be given to government organs, CSOs and other human rights institutions in order to galvanize collective support of the agenda.

CWHRDs Tz should increase publicity and visibility of the roles and responsibilities of Women Human Rights Defenders in the community through its online platforms such as website and several social media accounts, national and community media and other traditional communication methods such as meetings, seminars and theatre for development. This will increase communities understanding and therefore acceptance of women human rights defenders in the society.

## **Capacity building**

Capacity building is recommended to bridge the existing knowledge gaps among WHRDs in Tanzania in order to effectively play their roles to promote women and other marginalized groups rights. The mapping findings indicate capacity gaps in advocacy, ICT and communication, social media use, Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights etc. The capacity on security, safety, wellbeing and selfcare of WHRDs are also important as most of them work in the unfriendly environment that can risk their lives mostly from the same communities they serve. CWHRDs should also increase capacity building to women and girls with interest to become WHRDs as they are still very few WHRDs compared to the communities need. There are a lot of violations against women, girls and other marginalized groups which need to be addressed by CWHRDs.

## **Laws**

Most WHRDs feel that are not protected adequately to ensure their safety and security when defending the rights of women and other marginalized groups in the society. The recommendation is based on the need to have laws recognize women human rights defenders so that their safety and security can be assured, as well as increased self-esteem and self-confidence. There is also a need to support local government to develop by laws to protect women human rights defenders in their localities.

## **Relationship with government**

Women Human Rights Defenders compliment government efforts to ensure that women, girls and other marginalized groups rights are promoted as per country programmes such as National Plan of Action on Violence against Women and Children. However, WHRDs do not get enough support from government officials because their roles can negatively be perceived as opposition. Findings from key informants show that both parties – government and women human rights defenders need each other to ensure peace, security, safety, wellbeing and protection of women, girls and other marginalized groups. The two groups, therefore, need to work together to complement their efforts. CWHRDs need to organize events that link WHRDs and government officials in different levels in order to know each other, understanding roles of each other and information flows within government. This will improve relationship between WHRDs and government officials.

## **Solidarity**

The solidarity among WHRDs is important to promote their common agenda of promoting women and other marginalized groups rights. Working in solidarity bring strong voice and – increase resilience among themselves. If WHRDs work in solidarity, their safety and security can be assured, easy to exchange information and even resources.

## **Funding**

Inadequate of funding is one of major challenges facing WHRDs in Tanzania. Despite the fact that WHRDs agenda is still new in the country, development partners should put it into their priority, as it is widely accepted that meaningful development cannot be

achieved without realization of all human rights including the rights of women, girls and marginalized groups in the society. CWHRDs need to build capacity of WHRDs organizations on sustainability focusing on financial, organizational and social sustainability to reduce over dependence of international donors and to be able to compete with other organizations.

### **Insurance**

The Coalition for Women Human Rights Defenders in collaboration with development partners should plan to support health and life insurance cover for WHRDs especially those based in rural and risky areas to ensure their wellbeing, safety and security when faced with risks. The health and life insurance can be implemented through opening of special insurance fund for WHRDs. WHRDs should also be trained on self-care, wellbeing, safety and security to increase self-protection.

### **Identification**

The Coalition for Women Human Rights Defenders in collaboration with stakeholders and development partners should plan to provide special identity cards to WHRDs especially in rural areas so that they can be accepted in the community. The IDs are essential for the government and community recognition of the roles of WHRDs as well as for motivation. However, CWHRD must act careful in providing identification cards to avoid misuse of the IDs.

### **Lessons Learned**

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- There are women human rights defenders who play the roles of defenders, but they are not aware that they qualify to be recognized as women human rights defenders. These women need to be encouraged to join the Coalition through well set standards for individuals membership. There is also misunderstanding within the community on who is exactly a women human right defender. The concept of women human rights defenders is still misunderstood and is confused with feminist activism and opposition politics. There is a need to continue raising awareness

and increase capacity of WHRDs to understand their roles and responsibilities and the entire community to understand the concept of WHRDs.

- There are few documented cases of human rights violation against women, girls and other marginalized groups. CWHRDs Tz should plan to build capacity of WHRDs especially in rural areas on how to document violation cases of women and other marginalized groups rights.