

HAKI ZA UMILIKI WA ARDHI WA PAMOJA HUMARISHA USALAMA WA ARDHI NA KUWAWEZESHA WANAWAKE KIJAMII



AMA KWELI MIKE WANGU
NAKUSHUKURU KWA USHAURI WA
KILIMO CHA KISASA ADA YA MTOTO
SI CHANGAMOTO TENA.



Kulinda haki za umiliki wa ardhi huongeza uwezo wa wanawake kujadili na kushiriki kufanya maamuzi katika ngazi ya familia na jamii. Sauti za wanawake katika ngazi za utawala huruhusu ujuzi na mawazo yao kujumuishwa katika kufanya maamuzi, kuimarisha ubora wa maamuzi na kuwawezesha wanawake.

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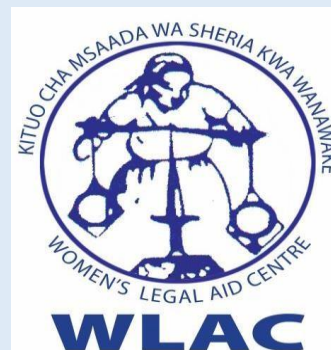
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ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2022



CONTENTS	PAGE
1.0 ABOUT US	4
2.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	5
3.0 STRATEGIC AIM, OBJECTIVES, STRATEGIES AND EXPECTED RESULTS	7
3.1. STRATEGIC AIM ONE: Legal Empowerment and Advocacy for reforms	7
3.2. STRATEGIC AIM TWO: Enhanced community awareness engagement in civic and socio-economic right	10
3.3. STRATEGIC AIM THREE: Institution sustainability and diversification.....	13
4.0 PERFORMANCE FOR THE YEAR 2022.....	15

ABBREVIATIONS:

1. ADR Alternative Dispute Resolution
2. CEDAW Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women
3. GEF Generation Equality Forum
4. IEC Information Education Communication
5. LGA's Local Government Authority
6. NGO Non-Governmental Organization
7. NPA/VAWC National Plan of Action to END Violence Against Women and Children
8. PSEA Prevention from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
9. SDGs Sustainable Development Goals

1.0 ABOUT US

The Women's Legal Aid Center (WLAC) is a non-governmental organization. The organization is a successor to the Legal aid scheme under Shirika la Uchumi la Wanawake Tanzania (SUWATA), which was the Legal Aid Scheme for women. SUWATA legal aid scheme for women was founded in 1989 officially registered in 1994 under Companies Act. Cap R.E 2002. In 2019 WLAC complied with Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Act No.3, 2019 and obtained a certificate of registration with **ooNGO/R1/00924**. The founding members are professional lawyers who volunteered to provide legal assistance to women in need of legal aid service on pro bono basis. Members of the organization are individual and institution (WLAC established paralegals) WLAC has its headquarters in Kinondoni District, Dar es Salaam and branches in Kigoma (Kasulu & Kibondo districts), Kagera in Muleba district. WLAC has established 23 paralegals organization. The organization has been providing legal assistance to Women and Children in Tanzania for more that 30 years of experience. WLAC is proud of being a pioneer of Paralegal, Police Gender and Children Desks and Mobile Legal Aid in Tanzania.

VISION

A society that respects and promotes women's and children's rights

MISSION

Our Mission is to work towards promoting women and children rights through civil and socio-economic empowerment; access to justice; and advocacy for pro-gender legal and policy frameworks in Tanzania

WLAC VALUES

WLAC core values are:

Integrity, Equality, Transparency, Accountability, professionalism, Voluntarism and volunteerism

PROTECTION FROM SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE POLICY

WLAC is committed to fostering a culture that promotes the safety and human dignity. It has a zero-tolerance approach to exploitative and abusive behaviors and relationships. The Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Policy sets out the WLAC's commitment to the prevention and management of sexual exploitation and abuse and reporting mechanisms within WLAC. It emphasizes the importance of reporting actual or suspected inappropriate behavior related to sexual exploitation, abuse and acts of misconduct. This is to ensure decisive action - including investigation of allegations and appropriate disciplinary and/or criminal prosecution- is taken.

2.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Women's Legal Aid Centre (WLAC) presents a report by those charged with Governance for the year 2022. This report provides organization performance, achievement and areas for improvement under the organization three strategic aims i.e. (1) *Legal Aid and Advocacy for reforms* (2) *Enhanced community awareness engagement in civic and socio-economic rights* and (3) *Institutional sustainability and diversification*. WLAC thrived toward promoting and protection women and children rights by ensuring quality legal services for needy women access to justice, legal empowerment and community awareness to promote gender equality.

For the year 2022 WLAC interventions aligned with national and international strategies to deliver common goal on gender equality, and elimination of violence against women and children (VAWC) as per Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), NPA/VAWC, Generation Equality Forum (GEF).

WLAC provided community awareness on the rights of women and children through radio, TV, IEC materials, social media and meetings and reached approximately 3 million people. WLAC provided capacity building training to 200 members of NPA/VAWC committees at the ward and district level on issues of violence against women and children in the community. The training went hand in hand with the passing of bylaws to implement the protection of women and children in the community.

WLAC provided legal aid to 8,579 clients (3,664 new clients and 4,915 returning clients) who are women, children and refugees. Legal support services including legal advice, case monitoring, mediation, drafting of legal documents, and legal counselling.

African Union (AU) 2063 Agenda: The Africa We Want

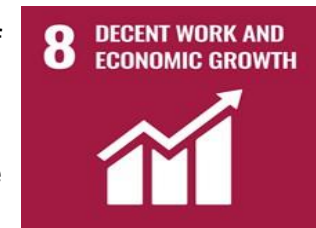
WLAC through Legal Empowerment Organizations, which is led by *Kituo cha Sheria* from Kenya and 14 organizations from Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi, Nigeria, Uganda Sierra Leon and South Africa which work towards the promotion of people-centered justice and gender justice in Africa presented a statement to 71st Ordinary Session of The African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights which was held at Banjul, Gambia. The Regional NGO statement aims at enlighten the challenges on access to justice, issues of Covid 19 and its impact to indigent communities.

Generation Equality Forum (GEF)

GEF commitments to promote women's economic justice and rights. Tanzania needs solid data and evidence on women and girls in order to deliver on its commitment to achieve gender equality by 2030 and analyses have shown that doing so will help to accelerate the realization of national development plans and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Over 2,000 commitments were made under six action coalitions, including the action coalition on Economic Justice and Rights, to which Tanzania has committed. WLAC envisions a community where all people have equal rights and opportunities. Where there is equality in political leadership, workplace and farm fields. Where women and girls, including those with disabilities, do not have to fear for their safety and can enjoy equal economic opportunities. Therefore, WLAC through awareness, advocacy, data and information contributes to the GEF.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

WLAC's work is aligned to the Sustainable Development Goals five, eight and ten. In 2016, 17 Global Goals for Sustainable Development broken down into 169 targets to be achieved by 2030. The goals largely encapsulate economic and social issues. These include poverty, hunger, health, education, climate change, gender equality, water, sanitation, energy, urbanization, environment and social justice. All 193 member states including Tanzania resolved to embrace and implement programs towards realization of these goals by 2030. WLAC focus on goals 5, 8 and 10 which are geared toward enforcing gender equality, economic growth and reduce inequality. Despite the many gains made in meeting SDG 5 on gender equality, there still exists challenges like discriminatory laws and pervasive social norms in Tanzania which adversely affect women specifically discriminatory laws and social norms. WLAC's Legal Empowerment Approach (LEA) seeks to empower beneficiaries on use of legal aid knowledge to defend themselves and pursue socio-economic changes in the community. In addition, SDG 8 seeks to promote sustained inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.



3.0 KEY RESULT AREAS: STRATEGIC AIM & EXPECTED RESULTS

STRATEGIC OUTCOME ONE:

Access to Justice for Women, Children and Refugees is broadened and improved

OUTPUT ONE: Legal Aid is efficiently offered by WLAC through stationed legal aid clinics, mobile legal aid, hotline, remand home visits

1.2 Legal assistance provided

WLAC provided legal aid services to a total number of 3664 new 4915 ongoing women, children and refugees Service rendered includes legal advice, case follow up, reconciliation, legal drafting, and clients coaching for self-representation. For the year 2022 the 2nd quarter has more clients compared to the rest of the quarters, this is due to the fact that, during this period of the time there was a camp consolidation in Kibondo which led to the closure of Mtendeli refugee camp. That being the case there was unrest situation on part of refugee and more issues were reported for legal assistance.

QUARTER	NEW CLIENT	ONGOING CLIENT/CLIENT VISITS
Q1	684	1162
Q2	1427	1171
Q3	758	1455
Q4	795	1127
TOTAL	3664	4915

1.2 Cases Finalized in favor of clients

To ensure timely justice for civil cases especially child maintenance WLAC applies Alternative disputes Resolution (ADR). This helps to serve time and resource. For the reporting period over 300 cases were scheduled for reconciliation.

Reconciliation:

208 cases were successful reconciled

Cases Won in Court

79 cases were won through court processes and among them 51 were successfully executed

1.3 Clients Forum organized

WLAC coordinates Client forum which is held on monthly basis. This forum is an essential Platform for women to learn, share and discuss issues which affects them positively or negatively and discuss for solution.

“Client Forum serves a safe space for women to air their views and opinions and discuss issues affecting them”.

8 forums were conducted and a total number of 90 Women attended the forum. During this forum WLAC outsourced different people with expertise on entrepreneurship, wellbeing and counselors to speak to women. Client forum has been a hub for women to increase their knowledge on legal matters and became peer supporters of one another.

Testimony from a client forum member

“I did not know I could lose my rights over the land I inherited from my father simply because I haven’t renewed the certificate of occupancy of the said land which had expired two years ago! This training is an eye opener to me. I will share this with my friends in VICOBA group because I am not sure if they know this” A testimony by one of the forum members during the land rights training.

1.4 Legal education offered

54,822 women, children and refugees were reached through trainings, bulk SMS, and publications disseminated to the public, and commemoration of 16 days of activism against violence against women. Legal education impacts knowledge on women and children rights and provides an opportunity for community member to seek assistance in case their rights are violated,

“Bulk SMS is a cost effective way to disseminate legal education to community members”.

1.5 Clients’ referral Pathway sustained

774 Clients were referred to WLAC by other service providers i.e., Social Welfare (SWF), Police Gender and Children Desk (PGCD), District Commissioner office (DC), religious leaders and WLAC clients. WLAC works in collaboration with these actors to ensure that other services or remedies that are not offered by WLAC are accessible by clients through referral.

“Networking with other service providers is key to ensure availability of different remedies to women and children.

1.6 Empowered paralegal for community justice

Refugee-based paralegals were empowered through technical advice on how to handle difficulty cases. Training on Protection Against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) and how to report and reporting channel for those incidences.

Improved ability of paralegals to offer legal assistance, a total of 178 people were received legal assistance. 57 cases were resolved through reconciliation sessions

OUTCOME 1. 2: Policy and Legal frameworks on the rights of Women, Children & Refugees are reformed and enforced

1.2.1 Promotion of Justice to Africa Union

WLAC through Legal Empowerment Organizations, which is led by Kituo cha Sheria from Kenya and 14 organizations from Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi, Nigeria, Uganda Sierra Leon and South Africa which work towards the promotion of people-centered justice and gender justice in Africa presented a statement to 71st Ordinary Session of The African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights which was Held at Banjul, Gambia.

The Regional NGO statement aims at enlighten the challenges on access to justice, issues of Covid 19 and its impact to indigent communities.

Statement focused on the state of access to justice in Africa and its implication on Aspiration 3 of the African Union (AU) 2063 Agenda: The Africa We Want.

The aspiration envisages among many other things, access to independent courts and judiciary that dispense and deliver justice without fear or favor; affordable and timely access to justice for all. The state of access to justice in Africa also impacts Aspiration 6 of the AU 2063 Agenda, which envisages full gender equality in all spheres of life and the elimination of violence against women and girls.

1.2.2 Strategies to review Law of Marriage Act. WLAC as a members of Tanzania End Child Marriage Network (TECMN) participated in a meeting organized by Child Dignity Forum (CDF) to deliberate on measure to be taken to review the Law of Marriage Act.



1.2.3 Bench Bar Strategic Meetings

Advocacy meeting with judiciary through participating in the Bench Bar meetings, conducting cases through the mobile court in Nyarugusu Camp and running a legal aid clinic at One stop judicial center in Temeke Dar es Salaam resulted fast tracking of cases and improved access to justice for women, children and refugees.

1.2.4 Advocacy for women's inheritance rights

WLAC being a member of KIKUHAMI (task force working on inheritance rights) input on the draft of the proposed amendment of Customary Inheritance Act of 1963 which was presented to the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Constitution and Legal Affairs in 2022.

1.2.5 Monitoring Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

For the reviewed period Tanzania is not yet scheduled for reporting, therefore we will continue to monitor the CEDAW and documenting information and data. The CEDAW committee will hold sessions from 6th February 2023 and there are several state parties will be reporting but Tanzania is not one of them.

Link: https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/TreatyBodyExternal/SessionsList.aspx?Treaty=CEDAW

The CEDAW convention is largely dependent on the political will of governments. This political will can be created through a strong and highly conscious constituency, not only among women and women's groups but within government bureaucracy as well. WLAC is in a view that there is a need to raise awareness and develop skills at various levels in relation to the CEDAW convention among women, government functionaries, lawyers and members of the judicial system. At the ground level, advocacy for the application of the CEDAW convention has to be linked to the international mandate of equality and non-discrimination.

1.2.6 Strategies meeting organized by office of Director of Public Prosecution

WLAC being legal aid provider on criminal justice through provision of court representation to children in conflict with the law was invited to participate in this strategic meeting. WLAC provided a report on children in conflict with the law to Deputy Permanent Secretary for Ministry of Constitution and Legal Affairs Dr. Kazugu M. Khatibu. Among others the meeting deliberated on ensuring expedition of justice and challenges on delay of cases.

Photo: Adv. Emmanuel Sosthenes receiving annual report on implementation to Dr. Kazugu M. Khatibu- Deputy Permanent Secretary for Ministry of Constitution and Legal Affairs



1.2.7 Mobile court in Nyarugusu Camp

The operations of the Mobile court in Nyarugusu facilitating timely justice and cost for refugees, women and children.

Photo: Mobile court in Nyarugusu camp, the court building was supported by UNHCR. WLAC and Judiciary collaborated in facilitating the building and furniture to enable the virtual court sessions.



STRATEGIC AIM TWO:

Enhanced community awareness engagement in civic and socio-economic rights

OUTCOME 1: A well informed community that takes action against violation of women, children and refugees rights

2.1 Use of social media for awareness raising:

You tube; WLAC successfully registered a Youtube account which will be utilized for disseminating WLAC programmes and also informing the community on their rights and services available for women and children seeking redress of their rights.

The channel link will be advertised through Instagram and Facebook for people to subscribe https://youtube.com/channel/UCwd8Mx_Gd6fGI5aNgdFkutQ



Instagram Account; For the reporting period WLAC Instagram continued to be used for awareness programme and it has attracted more followers and views for the posted posts. A total number of **1,112 new followers to make a total of 4,202 compared to 3,090** in 2021



WLAC twitter Account; WLAC Tanzania has 281 followers, WLAC has strategy to increase follower.



2.2 School awareness programmes:

WLAC focuses on safeguarding children rights by enhancing children ability to understand their rights and ways to prevent VAC and services available in case of violence incidences. WLAC conducted school dialog programme on children rights and VAC. Turiani secondary school. The aim of this dialog is to raise awareness on rights and measures to adopt to respond VAC.



2.3 Radio programme

Use of media continued to be an effective strategy to reach a wide coverage. WLAC aired several radio programmes though EFM radio, East Africa, Tumaini Radio, global TV and cloud fm. <https://voice.global/call-for-proposal/v-22208-tz-em/>



2.4 Raising awareness on women's rights on Mwanamke wa Shoka symposium during IWD organized by EFM

WLAC participated in Mwanamke wa Shoka program organized by EFM and Dina Marios as part of IWD celebration. During this event WLAC had opportunity to air two radio session on women rights issues, conduct two mobile legal aid services and speaking to women groups in different events organized by Efm. This was an opportunity to reach more people and profiling WLAC intervention through media. WLAC was awarded *Tuzo ya Heshima* to recognize our contribution towards women's and children rights in Tanzania.



2.5 Commemoration of 16 days of Activism

WLAC through Muleba field office commemorated 16 days of Activism by providing legal education and the effects of gender-based violence in society, and to encourage society not to turn a blind eye to acts of cruelty. The event was held at Kikuku Muleba Ward office grounds

Guest of Honor: Hon. Toba Nguvila Muleba District Council received information about WLAC's work.



2.6 Increased ability of Local Government Authorities (LGAs NPA VAWC) Committee to handle VAWC incidences in the community

Capacity building to Local Government Authority (LGAs), NPA VAWC committees, village leaders has created a link and strengthen working relationship to address issues of VAWG in the community cases related to VAWG were reported to social welfare in Karatu whereby 10 cases which are criminal cases were referred to the court of law. Moreover, of those 10 cases 2 have been ruled out whereby accused persons were convicted to 30yrs imprisonment. Besides, the Police gender and children desk receives an average of 10 cases per day on household violence (such as husband beating their wives), often referred to the court of law, as these cases are criminal. Matrimonial cases are referred by police to marriage reconciliation boards.

‘A social worker namely, Ms Adelaida Shauri Ngadi, rescued educational aspirations of the female student aged 14 whose parents wanted her to get married. Instead, a social worker took this child to an orphanage center and let her continue with studies. The girl was not taken back to her parents where she could risk her potential educational aspirations given hardship environments, she was likely to encounter”

‘Ability of committee members to handle VAWG incidences has increased. In a criminal case no. 54/2022, Maria Gijala vs Mathayo Gidaroda in Kateshi primary court. Maria while pregnant was beaten by her husband Mathayo and she reported the case to court. Later on, she wanted to solve the matter outside the court. However, the court refused and the husband was jailed for 6 months and penalized to pay TZS 100,000/- as compensation. (Before WLAC training sessions to committee members, they were allowing such cases to be resolved out of court.’ (A testimony from a Magistrate at Kateshi primary Court)

STRATEGIC AIM THREE: Institution sustainability and diversification

Outcome: Improved financial resource, Governance and program diversification for sustainable development:

3.1 Board Meeting

WLAC board meeting held on quarterly basis and for the year 2022 a total of 4 quarterly Board Meeting held and the following policies approved;

- Review of WLAC Financial Management
- Review of Employee Manual
- Prevention of Sexual and Abuse (PEA)
- Child Safeguarding and Protection
- Procurement Policy
- Employee code of conduct
- Volunteer Policy
- Whistleblower Policy
- Anti - fraud and corruption Policy

3.2 WLAC Annual General Meeting

WLAC Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on June 28, 2022 with great attendance from members. The General meeting received and approved the annual report 2020 together with the audit report. Further to that the following agenda deliberated;

- Appointed new auditor and their remunerations
- Approved WLAC constitution as per the Non-Governmental Act 2002 and Registrar of NGO's

3.3 Staff Affairs

3.3.1 *Staff retention and Turnover*

WLAC managed to maintain a total number of 41 (21 Female & 20 Male) staff in all office (Kinondoni, Muleba, Kasulu and Kibondo Districts).

3.3.2 **Staff Capacity Building**

UNHCR conducted capacity building training to WLAC staff on Refugee Status Determination (RSD) and International Protection. The training was an opportunity for WLAC to discuss number of issues based on the protection interventions that WLAC have been undertaking to protect the persons of concern.

Photo: WLAC staff and UNHCR protection team during session



3.4 Audit

3.4.1 *The external Audit* conducted and WLAC received unqualified opinion.

3.4.2 *Internal Audit:* For the year 2022, WLAC conducted internal audit on quarterly basis and the reports was shared to the Board Audit Committee and recommendations forwarded to the Board for further action.

3.5 Compliance with Law.

3.5.1 Monthly contribution submitted to HESLB, NSSF and WCF as required by Law.

3.5.2 Monthly tax returns for PAYE and SDL and annual tax returns submitted to Tanzania Revenue Authority.

4.0 PERFORMANCE FOR THE YEAR 2022

4.1 Main Achievements and Development for the year 2022

4.1.1 Community is aware and supportive of women, children and refugees towards access to justice (community leaders, local government officers, police, social welfare officer, religious leaders, government ministries and departments are referring clients to WLAC legal aid clinics).

4.1.2 Women, children and refugees are reporting Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG), taking action to claim their rights (vivid example is on the available data from legal aid clinics)

4.1.3 A total of 88 cases were settled amicably among the PoCs for purpose of maintaining peace in the community, 53 cases involving 53 PoCs from Nduta camp, 32 cases involving 64 PoCs at Nyarugusu Refugee Camp and 3 cases involving 6 clients at Kasulu host community were reconciled.

4.1.4 A total of **79 women** won court cases and recovered properties, access to land, property rights and access to basic services (child support)

4.1.5 Legal education to **65,689** Women, children and refugees thus improved knowledge on their legal and human rights and due procedures.

4.2 Leason Learnt

- 4.2.1 WLAC through provision of legal aid service at Temeke One Stop Judicial Centre has increased accessibility of legal aid service to needy women. This service has reduced the burden of women in terms of transport to come to WLAC offices. It has also facilitated feedback on what transpired in court and coaching of clients before court session.
- 4.2.2 Client forum has been useful for women peer support. This has worked as women get to share experience and encourage one another on how to stand for their rights. Through this forum women have been able to support their fellow women to speak against VAW/VAWC and taking legal action by seeking services available for victims of VAW/VAWC.
- 4.2.3 Increasing accessibility of service without incurring expenses on transportation and time through mobile court in Kasulu District which continues to easy women and children both in camp and host community.

4.3 Going Forward 2023

The path to gender equality is difficult but not impossible. To achieve Gender equality, both men and women must work together and bring positive changes in society. WLAC continues to focus on the three thematic areas namely; Legal Empowerment and Advocacy for Reforms, enhancing community awareness engagement in civic and social economic rights, and institution sustainability and diversification legal Aid towards achieving gender equality.