



Tanzania Women Lawyers Association

**(TAWLA)**



**ANNUAL  
REPORT** **20  
23**



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## LIST OF ACRONYMS

CROs	Customary Right of Occupancy
CSO	Civil Society Organization
EA	East Africa
EAC	East Africa Community
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GHAJ	Global Health Advocacy Incubator
IDIEP	Increased Democratic and Inclusive Election Project
IDLO	International Development Law Organization
IEC	Information, Education Communication Materials
IIED	International Institute for Environment and Development
IILA	International Institute for Legislative Affairs
JKCI	Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute
LGAs	Local Government Authorities
LRC	Law Reform Commission
LSF	Legal Services Facility
LSN	Legal Support Network
MAC	Membership Affairs Committee
MoCLA	Ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs
MOCU	Moshi Cooperative University
MOH	Ministry of Health
MCDGWSG	Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MUHAS	Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Science
NCDs	Non-Communicable Diseases
NEEC	National Economic Empowerment Council
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisation
NPA/VAWC	National Plan of Action to End Violence against Women and Children

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PO-RALG	President's Office – Regional Administration and Local Government
RITA	Registration, Insolvency and Trusteeship Agency
RTA	Road Traffic Act
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SRH	Sexual Reproductive Health
TANCDA	Tanzania Non-Communicable Diseases Association
TANLAP	Tanzania Network of Legal Aid Providers
TAWLA	Tanzania Women Lawyers Association
TBS	Tanzania Bureau of Standards
TFA	Trans-Fatty Acid
UNHCO	Uganda National Health Consumers' Organisation
URT	United Republic of Tanzania
USAID	United State Agency for International Development
VAC	Violence Against Children
WiLDAF	Women in Law and Development in Africa
ZAFELA	Zanzibar Female Lawyers Association
ZBS	Zanzibar Bureau of Standards



# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

Dear Members and Stakeholders,

Welcome to the TAWLA Annual Report for the year 2023 which implemented the third year of our 2020/21 to 2024/2025 Strategic Plan. TAWLA has over the years earned its place as a leading women's rights organization because of the work the organization does and the trust we have earned from our stakeholders hence our unwavering commitment to advocating for policy and legislative reforms to advance women's rights remains steadfast. Our vision of gender equity and women's empowerment centers on eliminating discrimination, violence, and legal barriers that impede women's progress.

I am grateful for the invaluable support and collaboration from our Development Partners, the URT Government, Judiciary of Tanzania, Parliament of Tanzania, Civil Society Organizations, media, and academia which has been fundamental in achieving the milestones outlined in this report, making a profound impact on the lives of women and girls across Tanzania. It is this collective support that encourages us to continue our vital work.

I extend my heartfelt appreciation to our dedicated Members whose unwavering support has been instrumental in our success. Without your commitment, achieving our goals would have been significantly more challenging. I also commend the Board of Directors, Management and Staff for their hard work, dedication, cooperation, and support throughout the year.

As we move forward, let us remain focused on our mission to create a society where every individual is treated with fairness, dignity, and respect. Together, we can build a future where gender equality and justice prevail.

I invite you all to delve into the contents of this report which presents the accomplishments, challenges, lessons learned, and the future direction.

Enjoy the reading!!

  
LULU NG'WANAKILALA  
CHAIRPERSON



## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It is with great pleasure that I present the TAWLA Annual Report for 2023 which captures the dedication, passion, and collective efforts of our entire TAWLA community in advancing gender equality and justice in Tanzania.

The year 2023 has been transformative for TAWLA, marked by significant milestones, impactful initiatives, and sustained commitment to our mission including the enhanced collaborations between TAWLA and stakeholders such as the Judiciary, particularly through one-stop centers aimed

at expediting legal cases in the Dodoma and Dar es Salaam regions. The ongoing improvements in partnerships have fostered efficient and streamlined legal processes. Furthermore, 2023 proved to be a successful year for TAWLA clients, benefiting from the Judiciary's innovative digital case filing methods and collaborative initiatives with educational institutions. These advancements signify TAWLA's commitment to leveraging technological solutions and fostering partnerships to enhance access to justice for its clients.

TAWLA has witnessed the completion of several projects, including the Mwanamke Imara project supported by USAID/Tanzania and the Increased Democratic & Inclusive Election Project (IDIEP) supported by the European Union through We Effect. These projects have significantly contributed to the achievements outlined in this report, further supporting TAWLA in fulfilling its mission and vision. We really appreciate their support.

As we navigate the opportunities ahead, I am confident that TAWLA will continue to be a beacon of positive change. Together, let us forge ahead with determination, inspired by the progress we've made and the vision of a society where every individual is treated with fairness, dignity, and respect.

I express my deepest gratitude to the TAWLA Board of Directors, Chairperson and our esteemed members for their support, dedication, and inspiration which has been instrumental in shaping our successes and fueling our drive to make a meaningful impact.

A special acknowledgment goes to our valued partners, including USAID/Tanzania, Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHA), IDLO, WE EFFECT, and Anonymous Donors. We deeply appreciate and we recognize the role you play in our journey.



**TIKE MWAMBIILE**  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

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# CHAPTER

# 1

# TAWLA HISTORY AND OVERVIEW



## TAWLAs JOURNEY

In 1989, the Tanzania Women Lawyers Association (TAWLA) was established, officially registered in 1990 under The Societies Act (Cap 337 R.E 2002). Operating under this status, TAWLA continued its mission until 2019, when The Written Laws (Miscellaneous Amendment) Act No. 3 of 2019 mandated all institutions engaged in community activities to register as Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). Consequently, TAWLA underwent the compliance procedure outlined in Act No. 3 of 2019 and obtained NGO status with Registration No. 00NGO/R2000131.

The organization's objectives are centered around advocating for gender equality, advancing human dignity, and promoting gender justice through policy, legal, and institutional reforms, community engagement, and media involvement. TAWLA envisions a society that values and upholds the rights, responsibilities, and empowerment of women. Its mission is to collaborate with relevant stakeholders to cultivate a supportive legal and policy framework, provide various platforms for sectoral reform, and facilitate access to justice through legal assistance, advocacy, awareness campaigns, strategic litigation, research, and publications addressing issues impacting women and children.

## Geographical Coverage

Being a strategy to ensure its services are more accessible to the community, particularly vulnerable women, and children, TAWLA has established physical presence in five zones, providing services to the regions adjacent to these zones across the country. Over the past 34 years, TAWLA has successfully established offices in various regions, including the Arusha office serving the Northern zone (Arusha, Kilimanjaro, and Manyara), Tanga office catering to the Tanga region and all its districts, Dodoma office covering the central zone (Dodoma and Singida), Mwanza office operating in the Lake zone (Mwanza, Shinyanga, Simiyu, Geita, Mara, and Kagera), and Mbeya office extending its services to the Southern Highland zone (Mbeya, Iringa, and Njombe).

To address the gap in legal aid services at the grassroots level, TAWLA collaborates with paralegals and community champions in 18 districts across Tanzania, including Kinondoni, Ilala, Temeke, Kigamboni, Ubungo, Mpwapwa, Kongwa, Chamwino, Arusha Dc, Meru, Monduli, Karatu, Longido, Tanga Urban, Muheza, Pangani, Ilemela, and Magu Districts

## TAWLA core values

At the heart of our endeavors to fulfill TAWLA's mission, we are guided by a set of fundamental values that shape our approach:

- ❖ **Professionalism** *By ensuring TAWLA services are delivered with a high level of standards and best practices.*
- ❖ **Transparency and Accountability:** *By sharing regular reports and/or filing returns on time for the Board Members, Local Community and Development Partners, Local Government Authorities, Registrar of Legal Aid Providers and Registrar of NGOs.*
- ❖ **Integrity and Confidentiality:** *By appreciating the trust and privacy of individuals and organizations that seek our services.*

- ❖ **Respect and Tolerance:** *By patiently listening to and providing the right advice in total reverence for the person(s) affected by any situation.*
- ❖ **Women-centered:** *By giving maximum attention to any gender by providing a high priority to Women and Children related cases.*
- ❖ **Diversity and Inclusiveness:** *By being inclusive as possible to accommodate the differences of people, e.g., ethnicity, culture, religion, etc.*
- ❖ **Spirit of Volunteerism:** *By provision of free legal aid services and any additional support needed as a result of the actual needs of the issue at hand.*

## Strategic objectives

1. In 2023, TAWLA entered the third year of executing its five-year strategic planspanning from 2021 to 2025, which encompasses the pursuit of the following strategic objectives.
2. Advanced gender equity through programs that promote accountability, progressive laws, transparency, and access to justice at Zonal, National, and International Levels by 2025
3. Strengthened TAWLA's brand and its visibility through a wide membership base, high impact services, effective communication, technical networks, and strategic partnerships with relevant stakeholders on a steady growth of 20% until 2025.

Strengthened TAWLA's capacity for sustainable service delivery.

## CONTRIBUTION OF TAWLA TO THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

### GOAL 1:

**No Poverty: End Poverty in all its forms everywhere**

TAWLA's initiative plays a crucial role in advancing this SDG by ensuring equal access for women to economic resources, land ownership and control, inheritance, natural resources, and financial services, thereby contributing to livelihood improvements. Additionally, our initiatives aimed at providing decent, safe, and affordable housing are aligned with efforts to eliminate poverty.

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### GOAL 3:

**Ensure Healthy lives and promote well-being.**

TAWLA contributes to this SDG by implementing programs aimed at reducing cardiovascular diseases, promoting healthy diets and physical activity through advocacy for regulatory and policy reforms, as well as community education. Other initiatives to address issues such as reducing maternal mortality and morbidity contributes to the realization of this SDG.

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### GOAL 5:

**Gender Equality: achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.**

A's daily legal aid provision work contributes to realizing this goal by reducing and eliminating all forms of discrimination against women and young children, ensuring access to justice, and raising awareness about their legal rights to eradicate discriminatory and harmful practices.

Also, a significant part of TAWLA's efforts directly contributes to this SDG by advocating for women's rights to access, own, and utilize land, facilitating their active participation and effective leadership at all levels of decision-making, as well as ensuring access to sexual and reproductive health and rights for women of reproductive age.

## GOAL 8:

### Decent work and Economic Growth

Our endeavors to improve working conditions for women employed in the horticulture industry align well with this goal. The program has been designed in line with the framework of “Protect, Respect and Remedy”; a framework propounded by the United Nations in addressing human rights violations by corporations.

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## GOAL 10:

### Reduced inequalities; reduce inequalities within and among countries.

TAWLA's contribution to this goal is evident through programs that contribute to enhance democratic and inclusive electoral processes, fostering more accountable leadership in Tanzania during and after the 2020 general elections. Promoting accountable leadership and a peaceful post-electoral environment in Tanzania remains a priority.

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## GOAL 11:

### Sustainable Cities and Communities: make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.

TAWLA engagements also contribute to this goal through advocating for the improved legal and policy on road safety in Tanzania and advocating for adequate, safe, and affordable housing for women and children.

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## GOAL 16:

### Peace, Justice, and Strong institutions.

TAWLA's efforts towards strengthening CSOs for enhanced democratic and inclusive electoral processes reflect our commitment to this goal. Prioritizing the promotion of accountable leadership and peaceful environment in post-electoral Tanzania are the key aspects of our work.

# TAWLA Board of Directors



**Lulu Ng'wanakilala**  
Advocate  
Chairperson



**Stella Rweikiza**  
Advocate and CPA (T)  
Treasurer



**Fortunata Matinde**  
Advocate  
Board Member



**Flaviana Charles**  
Advocate  
Board Member



**Gigi Maajar**  
Advocate  
Board Member



**Hon. Aisha Sinda**  
Judge - High Court of Tanzania  
Board Member



**Cecilia Ngaiza**  
Advocate  
Board Member

# CHAPTER

# 2

# ADVANCED GENDER EQUITY THROUGH PROGRAMS THAT PROMOTE ACCOUNTABILITY, PROGRESSIVE LAWS, TRANSPARENCY, AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE

## Introduction

This chapter highlights initiatives undertaken under Strategic Objective one of the TAWLA Strategic Plan (2021-2025), which reads, **“Advanced gender equity through programs that promote accountability, progressive laws, transparency, and access to justice at Zonal, National and International Level by 2025”**.

This strategic objective is achieved through ensuring sustainable legal aid services to the community targeting women and children; designing and implementing programs that promote gender equity by addressing emerging crosscutting issues that have adverse effect on women and children; conducting regular research and evidence based advocacy for legal reforms on laws affecting women and children and disseminating the reports to stakeholders and lastly through constructive and strategic engagement with national and international stakeholders to advocate for women and children rights.

Provision of legal aid services in the six (6) legal aid clinics proceeded in 2023 and through legal aid service TAWLA was able to reach 128,074 clients, this was done through TAWLA members (*Pro bono scheme*), Advocates and legal officers, volunteers, Pro-bono lawyers and

Paralegals. Three programs were successfully finalized in 2023, to wit, *Gender land rights project*, *Increased Democratic & Inclusive Election Project (IDIEP)* and *Mwanamke Imara*; a new program titled *Promote Gender Equality Outcomes in Just Food Systems and Sustainable Livelihood* was launched and its implementation successfully kickstarted.

TAWLA has also continued to embark in advocating for policy and legal reforms in advancing sexual reproductive health rights and measures to promote elimination of industrial produced trans-fat acids from food supply at national and regional level. A series of stakeholder engagements were conducted aiming at ensuring and nourishing cooperation and collaboration of TAWLA with the government and its institutions among other Stakeholders.

## 2. 1. Sustainable Access to Justice and Legal Aid

In 2023 TAWLA provided legal aid services to a total 3206 clients, 2099 being new clients and 1107 returning clients. The clients were served through TAWLA's legal aid clinics located across five zones including Dar es Salaam, Mwanza, Arusha, Dodoma, Mbeya, and Tanga regions. Despite the slight decrease of 98 new clients compared to the 2197 clients served in the previous year of 2022; it is worth noting that the Mbeya legal aid clinic established in 2021 continues to demonstrate steady growth. Specifically in Mbeya, there has been an increase from 186 clients in 2022 to 230 clients during the reporting period, showcasing promising progress in fulfilling our mission. provide legal aid at a steady growth whereas there is an increase from 186 clients in 2022 to 230 in this reporting period.



Hon. Dr. Tulia Ackson (Speaker of the Parliament of the United Republic of Tanzania) receiving an appreciation award from TAWLA's Board of Directors' Chairperson, Madam Lulu Ng'wanakilala in the presence of Kate Somvongsiri (former USAID | Tanzania Resident Director) during the TAWLA's 33rd Annual General Meeting that was held at Dar es Salaam on 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2023.

Table 1 Indicating the number of new clients accessed legal aid.

Legal Aid Clinic	New Client	Returning Client	Total
Arusha	504	277	781
Dar es Salaam	634	205	839
Dodoma	311	304	615
Mbeya	197	33	230
Mwanza	306	133	439
Tanga	147	155	302
<b>Grant Total</b>	<b>2099</b>	<b>1107</b>	<b>3206</b>

A total of 163 cases attended in the 6 TAWLA legal aid clinics were finalized in various courts of law/Tribunal having secured victory in 123 cases, lost in 32, 5 marked withdrawn and 3 amicably settled. For the lost cases, appeal proceedings are ongoing while clients are also assisted to execute in the cases where there is victory.

### 2.1. 1. Legal aid services through hotline services

Recognizing the role of hotline services in ensuring timely access to justice particularly for women who may be facing obstacles such as long distance, unfriendly environment or financial limitations when seeking legal assistance, TAWLA has continues to ensure to reaches its targeted beneficiaries through various avenues including hotline services. It is through this service where TAWLA receives feedback from the clients, enabling the organization to offer tailored legal guidance to effectively address the concern raised.

The year 2023, a total of 1,773 clients were reached through TAWLA hotline services across is six legal aid clinics. Legal aid services through hotline services entails calls received through toll free numbers **0800751010** and **0800110017** and respective office numbers in TAWLA offices;

**Arusha - 0762 973 419, Dar es Salaam - 0753 343 717, Dodoma - 0719 481 794, Mbeya - 0652 392 999, Mwanza - 0756 330 323 and Tanga through - 0715 898 900.**

Table 2 Displaying number of people served through Toll Free Services

TAWLA Office	Clients Attended
Arusha	426
Dar es Salaam	430
Dodoma	350
Mbeya	177
Mwanza	125
Tanga	265
<b>Total</b>	<b>1773</b>

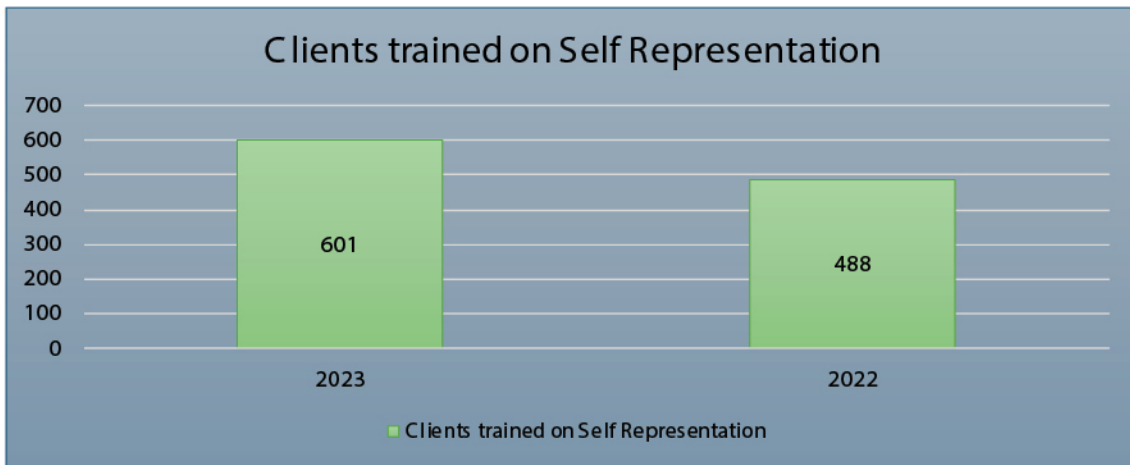
### 2.1. 2. Self-representation training

Self-representation training capacitates legal aid clients with the necessary knowledge and skills to present their cases before Courts of laws/Tribunals. It empowers the clients by enhancing their confidence to pursue their cases effectively which ultimately makes these clients champions within their communities.

A total of 601 were trained in this period which surpassed the yearly target (500 women). This is an increase of 113 clients from the 488 clients trained in 2022.

This intervention helps to improve access to justice as it reduces the reliance on legal representation and allows individuals to advocate for themselves effectively.

**Figure 2: Indicating the Client Self-Rep Training**



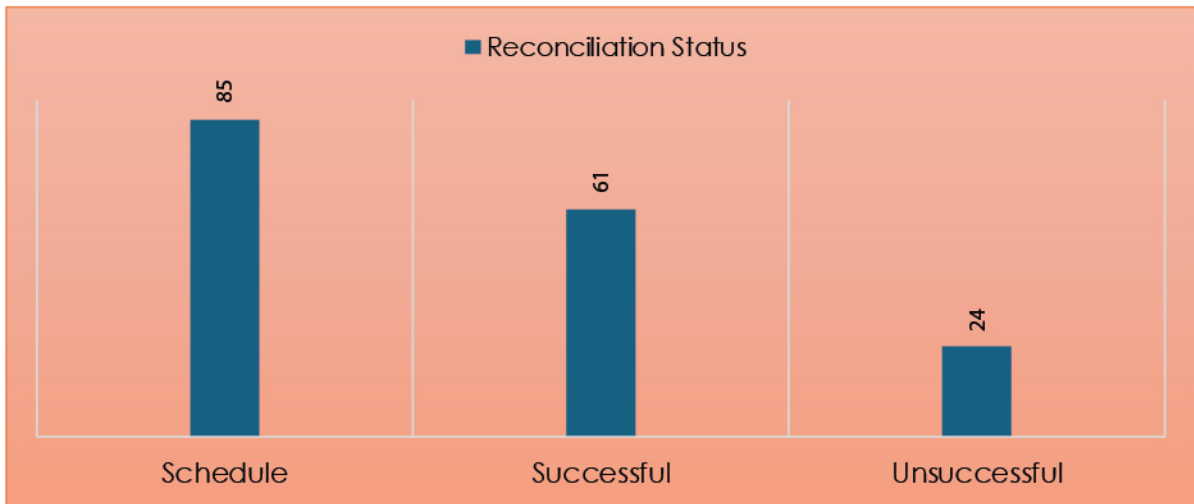
### 2.1. 3. Reconciliation

To promote harmonious resolution of several disputes, TAWLA normally assess the reported disputes in and facilitates reconciliations through various sessions involving both disputing parties and other pertinent individuals before embarking on court process. This voluntary approach has proven effective in amicable resolution, thereby conserving resources and time which could have otherwise been expended on litigation. These reconciliation sessions are conducted for cases already in court or those yet to be instituted in court whereas, upon success, a deed of settlement is drafted to ensure adherence to the agreed terms.

A total of eighty-five reconciliation sessions were conducted across TAWLA legal aid clinics in 2023 whereas 61 were successful and twenty-four unsuccessful and clients assisted to proceed with further legal actions.

A considerable number of cases reported in TAWLA legal aid clinics are family-related and as a predominant legal aid provider, TAWLA aims to promote alternative dispute resolutions, particularly encouraging women to explore such methods. This is to ensure ongoing peace between the involved parties, especially when there are children, with a primary focus on safeguarding their best interest.

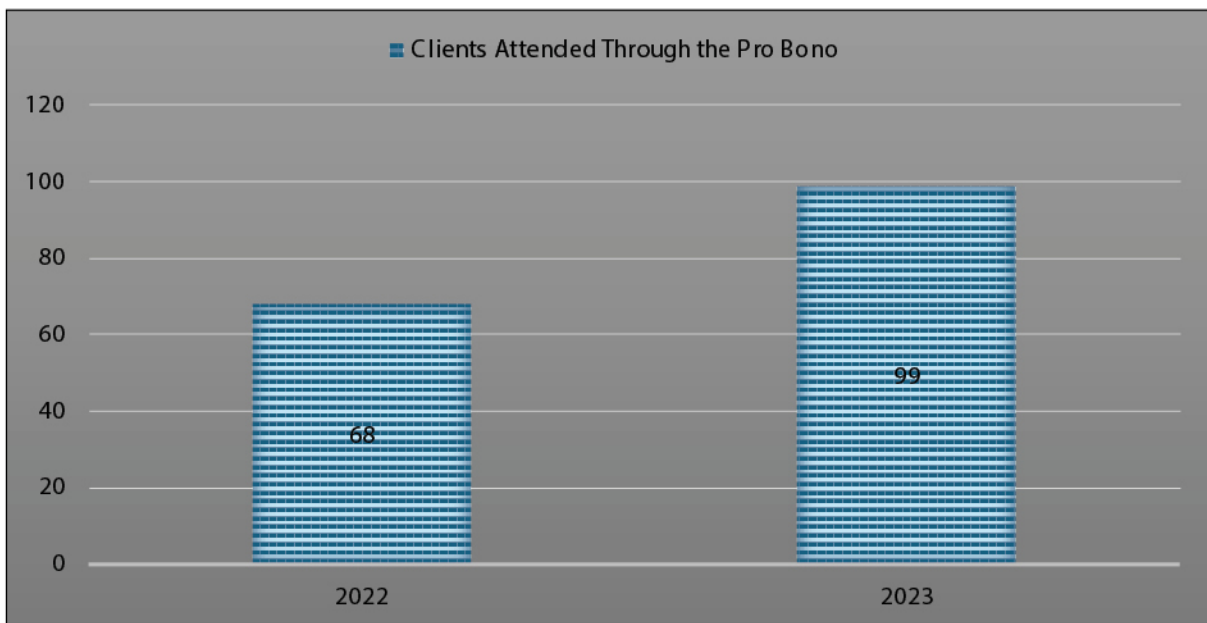
**Figure 3. Indicating the status of Reconciliation cases**



**2.1. 4. Pro-Bono Scheme**

Through its members and other legal practitioners willing to volunteer their legal services under the Pro bono Scheme, TAWLA has been able to represent a total of 99 cases in various Courts of Law and Tribunals. There is a notable increase of 31 cases from the 68 represented in 2022 which have been attributed to TAWLA's initiative in 2023 to reach out to law firms and request their support in the Pro bono scheme.

**Figure 4 Showing the number of clients attended through pro bono scheme.**



### 2.1. 5. Mobile legal aid

Legal aid provision remains a fundamental aspect of TAWLA mission, and it is consistently implemented across all its engagements and interventions. In 2023 TAWLA reached a total of 1296 people through mobile legal aid services, which were conducted during various events such as national and international days commemorations, Mama Samia Legal aid Campaign and the *Kliniki Ya Ardhi*, among others that TAWLA participated in. It is noteworthy that the annual target of reaching 960 clients through mobile legal aid was surpassed in 2023. This represents an increase of 425 clients compared to the 776 reached in 2022.

Table 3 Indicating the number of people reached through Mobile Legal aid.

TAWLA Office	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Total
Arusha	14	100	62	177	353
Dar es Salaam	120	42	59	60	281
Dodoma	23	24	70	75	192
Mbeya	45	192	81	8	326
Mwanza	42	42	0	0	84
Tanga	27	27	3	3	60
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>427</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>323</b>	<b>1,296</b>

### 2.1. 6. Legal Education.

To ensure that individuals are equipped with the requisite knowledge and skills to navigate the legal system, access legal assistance, and resolve disputes within the community, TAWLA has maintained its collaboration with various stakeholders including Government Ministries, the Judiciary, Tanganyika Law Society (TLS), and local government authorities in the providing of legal education to the wider community. Throughout the reporting period of 2023, a total of 27,497 individuals received legal awareness on a range of legal topics such as gender-based violence and response mechanism, will writing, probate and inheritance matters, matrimonial proceedings, and land dispute mechanisms in Tanzania, among others.

Legal education sessions were conducted through various platforms Law Week commemoration, the Mama Samia Legal aid campaign, *Kliniki ya Ardhi*, and awareness sessions at the Integrated Justice Centres in Arusha, Dar es Salaam, Dodoma, and Mwanza.

Table 4 Indicating the number of people reached through the administered Legal Education

Reporting Quarter	Male	Female	Total
Quarter 1	510	1507	2017
Quarter 2	1674	1210	2884
Quarter 3	1958	4321	6279
Quarter 4	7159	9158	16,317
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>11,301</b>	<b>16,196</b>	<b>27,497</b>



One of TAWLA's beneficiaries from Kiranyi Ward, in West Arumeru, Arusha under the Increased Democratic and Inclusive Election Project (IDIEP), is seen reading a simplified manual on civic education and good governance.

### 2.1. 7. Paralegal services

To ensure equitable access to legal aid services, even in areas where TAWLA lacks physical presence, the organization has maintained a collaborative partnership with Paralegals. Through this ongoing collaboration, 23,255 people received legal aid services while 79,254 were reached with legal education in Mbeya, Mwanza Arusha, and Dar es Salaam regions. Working alongside Paralegals is essential in ensuring access to justice as they provide legal advice and education to individuals who may not have access to lawyers or means to afford legal services, thereby bridging the gap between legal system and the community.

Table 5 Indicating the number of people reached through Paralegal Services

Reporting Quarter	Legal Aid	Legal Education
Quarter 1	21,984	19,355
Quarter 2	747	31,442
Quarter 3	524	28,457
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,255</b>	<b>79,254</b>

## 2. 2. Gender Equality and GBV

Understanding that gender equality is key to realization of human rights, TAWLA has persistently engaged in efforts to ensure that the community is free from gender-based violence. This commitment was demonstrated in 2023 through different initiatives including the commencement of the program titled *Promote Gender Equality Outcomes in Just Food Systems and Sustainable Livelihood*. This initiative aims to improve gender equality outcomes within programs implemented by We Effect Partners in Kilimanjaro, Iringa, Dodoma, Mwanza, and Njombe regions. These Partner Organisations focus on improving livelihoods and ensuring the right to food, thereby providing TAWLA with an opportunity to widen its scope of reaching the community on the ground.

Through partnerships with these organizations, TAWLA conducted gender needs assessments, internal policy reviews, and training sessions to promote gender mainstreaming. Additionally, community awareness campaigns on gender-based violence prevention were conducted, with special initiatives during the 16 days of activism. TAWLA's active involvement in VAWC Committee meetings in these regions, especially in Mbeya, focused on developing gender-sensitive bylaws, demonstrating its commitment to gender equality and human rights.

## 2. 3. Women land rights

In 2023, TAWLA continued its advocacy efforts for women land rights by actively engaging with groups of farmers and pastoralists in Kilimanjaro, Iringa and Dodoma, and cooperatives and housing groups in Mwanza. These engagements focused on raising awareness on land and property rights, specifically the legal provisions in Tanzania land laws on women ownership of land and property. The awareness sessions capacitated the groups to challenge systematic discrimination rooted in social norms and equipped them with knowledge of the legal redress mechanisms in land disputes including access to available legal aid services.

## 2. 4. Will writing campaign.

This remains a continual priority for TAWLA in quest to reduce contentious probate and administration proceedings which disproportionately affect women and children. In 2023 TAWLA facilitated will writing campaign in collaboration with local government authorities, religious leaders, and influential community members. By raising awareness about property ownership rights and the importance of asset distribution planning, these initiatives have empowered women and communities to make informed decisions and secure/safeguard their assets for future generations. TAWLA's advocacy in promoting women's land rights have been instrumental in advancing gender equality in Tanzania's land governance framework.

## 2. 5. Sexual Reproductive Health Rights

Acknowledging the alarming sexual and reproductive health indicators, including elevated rates of maternal mortality, adolescent births, HIV transmission from mother to child, intimate partner violence, child and teen marriage, school dropouts due to pregnancy and low contraceptive prevalence, TAWLA remains steadfast in its advocacy for women rights to reproductive health. TAWLA niche in this agenda is advocating for favorable legal and policy frameworks and awareness raising to rights holders and duty bearers to leverage the existing legal opportunities to uphold women rights.

In 2023 TAWLA continued its engagement with relevant stakeholders including Members of Parliament to raise awareness on the need to domesticate the Maputo Protocol and amend the Penal Code to permit safe abortion in cases of pregnancy resulting from rape, incest, and sexual assault. Through these interventions, TAWLA successfully managed to strategize collective action for presenting the Bill on sexual reproductive health rights to the Parliament.

Moreover, efforts which aims at fostering a supportive environment for women's reproductive health rights within communities includes engagements made with out of school youths, religious leaders, and health providers to clarify their values and transforming their attitude towards legal abortion.



A group picture of participants during a (national convening) workshop on advancement of sexual and reproductive health and rights for women of reproductive age in Tanzania that was held at Serena Hotel, Dar es Salaam on the 28<sup>th</sup> of July 2023

## **2. 6. Women and youth participation in political processes and decision-making forums.**

There is remarkable progress recorded in this thematic area for the year 2023. TAWLA successfully secured an approval and endorsement of developed bylaws by Busokelo and Moshi District Councils, making a total of thirty villages. The adopted by-laws contain inclusive provision that allow effective participation and representation of women in all key decision-making meetings at village level. Furthermore, TAWLA in collaboration with the President's Office- Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG) conducted a webinar to share with representatives from LGAs in Tanzania mainland learnings and best practices from gender and youth-focused by-law interventions with the hope of influencing other LGAs to adopt the approach when developing their by-laws.

The Government of URT tabled three Bills for political reformations in Tanzania, a bill to repeal the National Electoral Commission Act, Political Parties Affairs Act and the Presidential, Parliamentary and Local Government Election Act. This is a great achievement to be observed by TAWLA as there have been several programs geared towards advocacy for women and youth inclusion in leadership and decision making.

## **2. 7. Stakeholders Engagement, Partnership, Collaboration and Networking**

TAWLA has continued conduct constructive and strategic networking in the year 2023 and among the remarkable engagements are:

- Through the collaborative efforts with the coalition on NCDs, TAWLA engaged with the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) to propose the development of a National Standard limiting industrially produced Trans Fat Acid (iTFA) to 2% in food contents as recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO recommendations).
- TAWLA collaborating with coalition on NCDs engaged with high-ranking officials of EAC Secretariat to formulate a collaborative workplan for regional advocacy efforts on the elimination of iTFA from food supply across East Africa
- Engagement in the launch and implementation of Mama Samia Legal Aid Campaign in Dar es Salaam, Dodoma and Singida; fostering collaboration and support within the legal aid and among stakeholders in promoting access to justice.
- Facilitated visits to Universities with LL. B program at University of Dodoma and Mzumbe University – Mbeya Campus fostering partnerships and engagement with academic institutions.
- TAWLA convened exit meetings for the three finalized programs to wit; Gender land rights project, Increased Democratic & Inclusive Election Project (IDIEP) and Mwanamke Imara engaging with relevant stakeholders to review the outcomes and ensure continuity through established sustainability plans.

## **2. 8. Dissemination of IEC Materials**

TAWLA uses different awareness and visibility approaches which include disseminations of IEC Materials. The focus of the materials is to facilitate TAWLA interventions from the field level and increase the visibility and community participation/engagement in development activities including their active participation in decision making forums.

**2. 9. Governance and Rule of Law.**

To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), it is crucial to prioritize good governance and the rule of law, as they are fundamental to promoting peace and stability - essential components for the proper functioning and advancement of societies. TAWLA's dedication to good governance and promotion of the rule of law was demonstrated through support of enactment of gender-sensitive and youth-focused bylaws in 30 villages at Kilimanjaro, Njombe and Mbeya regions. This initiative successfully enhanced the participation of women and youth in decision-making bodies and leadership positions, resulting in increased diversity, improved representation, promoted gender equality, increased youth engagement, and ultimately better outcomes for the communities involved.

**2. 10. Research and Evidence Based Advocacy.**

In an initiative to advocate for regulatory and policy measures on elimination of industrially trans-fat acids from food supply; TAWLA strengthened NCD coalition members capacity on how to conduct evidence-based advocacy in relation to legal and policy interventions on elimination of TFA from food supply in East Africa. The coalition with TAWLA then conducted a dialogue with members of the East Africa Legislative Assembly on regulatory measures required to eliminate industrially produced trans-fat acids from the food supply. The dialogue facilitated the establishment of a champion group within EALA to advocate for the passage of regional iTFA regulation.



A group picture of the EAC consultative meeting with EAC Secretariat, Global Health Advocacy Incubator's (GHAi) East African region grantees namely TAWLA, IILA and UNHCO held at Moshi, Kilimanjaro.

# CHAPTER

# 3

# STRENGTHENED TAWLA'S BRAND AND ITS VISIBILITY THROUGH A WIDE MEMBERSHIP BASE, HIGH IMPACT SERVICES, EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION, TECHNICAL NETWORKS, AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS WITH RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS

## **Introduction**

This chapter is going to highlight activities implemented under Strategic Objective Two of the TAWLA Strategic Plan 2020-2025 which provides for the

**“ Strengthened TAWLA’s brand and its visibility through a wide membership base, high impact services, effective communication, technical networks, and strategic partnerships with relevant stakeholders on a steady growth of 20% until 2025 ”**

TAWLA is an organization with wide Membership rights and obligations articulated in the Constitution. The existing Members have technical capacities to support women and communities to access justice through diverse approaches. TAWLA continued to implement its program with the objective to retain, utilize and increase Members' participation and ownership of the organization for effective delivery of TAWLA mission.

### **3. 1. TAWLA Rebranding**

For purpose of strengthening TAWLA's brand, the organization embarked on implementing several activities to increase its visibility which include regular updates of TAWLA website, printing, and dissemination of banners, brochures, and other visibility materials. On the other hand, efforts have been made to revive the use of social media platforms to communicate with a wide audience about the work that the organization is executing. This played a vital role in rebranding TAWLA and making it user-friendly.

## **3. 2. Membership growth, engagement, and networking.**

### **3.2. 1. Membership Growth**

TAWLA has noted an appealing progressive increase of its members since its inception in 1990 where members were only 40. However, over the years TAWLA have been witnessing active and dormant members where several of them fail to pay their annual membership subscription fees of up to two years and beyond.

In 2022 TAWLA Annual General Meeting approved de-registration of 79 members who defaulted to pay their arrears. The de-registration followed TAWLA Constitution which requires de-registration of members with arrears of more than two consecutive years.

Thus, as of 31st December 2022 TAWLA active members were 341. In 2023, 39 new members were recruited, contributing to a total membership of 380. This represents an increase of 11.4% compared to the membership count in 2022.

### **3.2. 2. Membership Electronic Database and interacting platform.**

TAWLA has consistently managed and updated its electronic database of members. This database serves as a valuable tool for enhancing data quality, improving the management of member information, and generating reports efficiently. As of December 2023, the TAWLA Membership database recorded 380 members, reflecting a 11.4% increase compared to the 341 members recorded in 2022.

Furthermore, TAWLA has maintained open communication channels with its members, utilizing email, text messages, WhatsApp, and phone calls. Through these channels, TAWLA provides members with information regarding membership matters, career and professional development opportunities, training sessions, and consultancy services.

### **3.2. 3. Members engaged in TAWLA planned activities.**

To ensure effective delivery of its vision 348 members were engaged through various TAWLA planned activities including members handling TAWLA client cases, members representing TAWLA at various stakeholders' forums, and members participated in TAWLA planned project activities.

### **3.2. 4. Members handling TAWLA Client's cases.**

To ensure the effective delivery of TAWLA's mission of creating a conducive legal environment to protect women and children, TAWLA continued to make use of its members to provide legal aid services to vulnerable women and children in Tanzania. In so doing, TAWLA was able to engage 60 members in handling/ representing 70 cases for TAWLA clients in different courts of law and tribunals.

### 3.2. 5. TAWLA Members Electronic Interacting Platforms

In this reporting period, TAWLA maintained communication with its members through various channels, including emails, text messages, WhatsApp, and phone calls. The shared information encompassed updates on membership, career, and professional development opportunities, as well as details about training and consultancies.



A group picture of TAWLA Staff during the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting that was held at Serena Hotel, Dar es Salaam

### 3. 3. Media Engagement and Communication

TAWLA has continued to mold Tanzanian society into respecting women's rights. It has contributed to increasing the protection of the rights of women and children in society through media engagement. It has also contributed into increasing the number of reporting of incidences of violations of women and children's rights in the society. Additionally, the organization has been instrumental in disseminating information to improve public health, focusing specifically on promoting healthy diets and physical activity.



TAWLA Legal Officer, Mr. Yosia Kimwari raising public awareness on the need to create enabling legal environment to contribute to the reduction of cardiovascular diseases through Advocacy for Regulatory Framework to Eliminate Industrially Produced Trans-Fatty Acids from the Food Supply at ITV station.

### 3. 4. Public Relation, Publications, and Exhibition of TAWLA works.

#### 3.4. 1. Exhibition of TAWLA Work

In 2023 TAWLA continued to increase its visibility by engaging in various international and national affairs including the commemoration of International Women's Day, International Day for Rural Women, Annual NGOs Forum, NCDs Week, and Legal Aid Week. Through these events, TAWLA has increased its network base of partners, stakeholders, and allies in the field of legal profession. It has also increased its clients' base from the legal education and legal aid services provided at these events.

#### 3.4. 2. Publish newspaper articles and dissemination of IEC materials.

TAWLA continued to raise public awareness on diverse legal issues using print media. This has seen TAWLA's credibility as a credible source of information in women and children's rights increased. It has also increased community awareness on TAWLA advocacy activities as a women's rights organization. Also, as a part of raising community awareness on legal issues, in this reporting period, a total of 1625 copies of different TAWLA publications were disseminated to community members and policymakers.



# CHAPTER

# 4

# STRENGTHENED TAWLA'S CAPACITY FOR SUSTAINABLE SERVICE DELIVERY.

## Introduction

This chapter is going to highlight activities implemented under Strategic Objective Three of the TAWLA Strategic Plan (2020/2021 – 2024/2025) which provides for the **“Strengthened TAWLA's capacity for sustainable service delivery”**.

The overall objective is to advocate for the development of a national mandatory standard on front-of-pack warning labels to provide clear information for consumers as per the Internationally recommended best practices.

### 4. 1. Resource Mobilization

In 2023 continued to mobilize resources for implementation of organization operations. The organization continued to strengthen its relationship with existing development partners and continued forging new partnerships. In the year 2023, TAWLA had an opportunity to sign new contracts with Global Healthy Advocacy Incubator (GHAI) to implement a project titled

**“ Advocating for the adoption and implementation of a national mandatory standard on Front of Pack Warning Label (FOPL) to promote healthy diets in Tanzania ”**

TAWLA has also, managed to develop a total of 10 proposals, which were submitted to IDLO, USAID Tanzania, GHAI, USAID Tanzania, Ireland Embassy, UNDEF, GIZ, and the African Development Bank.

### 4. 2. Collection of membership subscription fees

TAWLA continued to mobilize resources through Membership and subscription fees. A total sum of TZS 13,585,000/= was collected in the year 2023.

### 4. 3. TAWLA Governance Structure and Quality Assurance

TAWLA governance structure is composed of seven members of Board of Directors including the Chairperson (Lulu Ng'wanakilala), Honorary Treasurer (Stella Rweikiza) and Board Members (Flaviana Charles, Aisha Sinda, Gigi Maajar, Cecilia Ngaiza and Fortunata Matinde).

## 4. 4. Staff Competency and Performance

It should be noted that a successful TAWLA is a result of competent and committed staff hence the need to conduct several internal and external capacity-building training courses to strengthen TAWLA'S staff capacity for sustainable service delivery.

### 4.4. 1. Capacity building session

#### a) Internal capacity-building session

In 2023, seven internal capacity building training courses focusing on different topics were conducted. Some sessions focused on creating a sustainable internal operation procedure and some focused on individual career development. These trainings were on:

- i. Training on using TAWLA MEL System.
- ii. Key aspects of the Law of Marriage Act.
- iii. Time management skills.
- iv. Orientation about TAWLA Polices.

These training courses aimed at creating compliance to TAWLA policy and procedures, staff adherence to organization rules and regulations, career development, and resource mobilization. As a result, TAWLA has experienced tremendous changes in its internal operations.

#### b) External capacity building training

In 2023, three external capacity-building trainings addressing various including the establishment of sustainable internal operation procedure and individual career development were held, resulting in improved performance of members of staff in finance and MEL desk.

- i. TAWLA staff had the opportunity to attend the training conducted by t h e National Board of Accountants and Auditors (NBAA) on the skills needed to prepare financial statements in accordance with IPSAS (International Public Sector Accounting Standards) and to provide them with updates on new standards for disclosure purposes.
- ii. TAWLA Staff responsible for implementing the WE EFFECT gender project engaged in and benefited from the Leadership for Change Training, hosted at MOCU in collaboration with We Effect.
- iii. The capacity of TAWLA Staff on advocacy for food systems and rights was enhanced through the training which was facilitated by We Effect.



Adv. Neema Ahmed, one of the TAWLA Staff who benefited from the Leadership for Change Training, hosted at MoCU in collaboration with We Effect holding her certificate of completion.

#### 4. 5. Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning

During the reporting period TAWLA Monitoring and Evaluation Unit facilitated training to program and Regional Coordinators on using the newly developed online MEL System for data collection. The purpose of introducing this system is to ensure effectiveness and data quality from all TAWLA interventions, which will correspond to timely reporting, and make quicker decisions as we have access to the exact data we need. This has improved and strengthened TAWLA data collection and management.

Monitoring and evaluations visits have been conducted and learnings have been generated to accommodate necessary adjustments in programming. The unit continued to offer support to staff familiarization with developed reporting tools.

# CHAPTER

# 5

# KEY ACHIEVEMENTS, SUCCESS STORIES, LESSONS LEARNT, WAY FORWARD, CHALLENGES AND CONCLUSION

## 5. 1. Key Achievements

- a. Dodoma office has relocated to TAWLA own building at Ilazo area in Dodoma.
- b. TAWLA Member's excellency acknowledged at the global level when Madam Elizabeth Mrema appointment as the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Deputy Executive Director was featured on Daily News.
- c. Getting the Members of Parliament buy-in on issues related to the health system costs of post abortion care study findings and unsafe abortion and the whole idea of reducing MMR resulted from unsafe abortions is a plus for CAMMAC under TAWLA leadership.
- d. TAWLA successfully moved the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) to develop a national mandatory standard to limit the level of Industrially Produced Trans Fat Acid (iTFA) from the food supply to address NCDs in Tanzania.
- e. Strengthened working relationships, collaboration, and networking with the government, judiciary, like-minded organizations, and development partners.
- f. Successfully engaged the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) in matters related reduction of NCD's in the region by promoting policies on healthy food in the supply chain.
- g. Proactively reviewed the 2020-2025 TAWLA Strategic Plan for the Board of Directors deliberations.
- h. Maintained collaboration with international development partners to advocate for policy changes.
- i. Increased TAWLA visibility and credibility in the eyes of the government, international and local development partners, other women's rights organizations, and other stakeholders.
- j. TAWLA provided legal aid services to 128,074 clients through various means, including, pro bono scheme, self-representation assistance, paralegal support, legal education programs, court representation, and reconciliation conducted at the TAWLA office.
- k. Thirty-nine (39) new Members were recruited in 2023 which contributed to TAWLA membership growth.



A group picture of the productive meeting between TAWLA representatives and East African Members of Parliament (EALA), which aimed at strengthening partnerships for healthier communities discussing the importance of passing a legislation that limits Trans Fatty Acids in food products to combat cardiovascular diseases in the region.

## 5. 2. Overall Challenge

- a. Limited resources to support implementation of the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan. The Management continues to put in place different measures in fundraising including development of new programs for fund solicitation, creating and nurturing partnerships with the development partners, private sector, and relevant stakeholders.
- b. Poverty among the targeted group coupled with lack of civil registration of vital events such as marriage and death as well as property registration stands as one of the persistent factors that have led to challenges in the enforceability of court judgments. Consequently, this has resulted in TAWLA's legal aid clients experiencing delays in accessing their rightful legal remedies. To address this, TAWLA has been working with relevant authorities, to encourage vital and property registration. Additionally, since poverty poses as a barrier to essential services for children, TAWLA is addressing this through the ongoing efforts in financial empowerment and inclusion.
- c. Lack of awareness of legal procedures and court regulations often leads many clients not to access their fundamental rights, for instance, most clients seek legal advice when the legally prescribed time has elapsed (time-barred). However, to address this challenge, TAWLA has continued to provide legal education to the community through media outlets, awareness-raising sessions, and other available platforms to mitigate the situation.

## 5. 3. Lessons Learnt

- a. TAWLA has consistently upheld its reputation as a trustworthy organization and remains a recognized technical authority in the field of women's rights. This credibility serves as a cornerstone for effective advocacy and impact.
- b. Aligning TAWLA's advocacy efforts with government priorities enhances the likelihood of success in achieving our objectives. By working in harmony with national agendas, we can leverage existing initiatives and resources for greater influence.
- c. Recognizing the pivotal role of media in our engagements, we have learned to harness its power effectively. Strategic media engagement amplifies our message and helps reach a broader audience, thereby bolstering our advocacy efforts.
- d. TAWLA has observed that consistent and sustained digital campaigns have the potential to capture the attention and interest of our target audience. Over time, these campaigns can generate substantial awareness and engagement, making them a valuable tool for advocacy.
- e. TAWLA's ongoing cooperation with the Judiciary of Tanzania, the Social Welfare Department, Police Gender and Children desk, and other stakeholders has proven helpful in enhancing justice through the provision of legal aid.



TAWLA's Executive Director, Adv. Tike Mwambipile (left) shaking hands with the Head of the Dar es Salaam Police Academy, Senior Assistant Commissioner of Police (SACP) Dr Lazaro Mambosasa during a courtesy visit which aimed enhancing the existing working relationship between TAWLA and the Tanzania Police Force in various areas, particularly in ensuring access to justice and gender equality.

#### **5. 4. Way Forward**

- a. To continue implementing programs that contribute to TAWLA Strategic Plan 2020-2025.
- b. The organization will also continue fundraising for organizational sustainability.
- c. To provide support to staff and volunteers through capacity building for effective service delivery.

#### **5. 5. Conclusion**

This annual report has highlighted all the engagements made in 2023 in line with TAWLA Strategic Plan for the year 2020-2025, key achievements and results, challenges encountered, lesson learnt and way forward. Organization in a special way appreciates the support of the Government, Development Partners, likeminded organization, TAWLA Members, the Board, Staff, and all beneficiaries including public which made possible the implementation of the former Strategic Plan. It is our expectation that the new TAWLA strategic plan will increase its achievements and visibility to attract and retain more donors and new TAWLA members. TAWLA will also continue to work closely with the current members and stakeholders.

# SUCCESS STORIES FROM TAWLA LEGAL AID CLINICS ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

### 1. **AS Vs. LM, Matrimonial Appeal No 247 of 2022, High Court of Tanzania, Temeke Sub Registry (One Stop Judicial Centre).**

LM instituted a matrimonial cause against his wife before the District Court at Temeke (One Stop Judicial Centre), the matter was decided in favor of LM. Having been aggrieved by the decision of the District Court whereby nothing was awarded to AS as to the properties acquired during the subsistence of her marriage with the LM. AS decided to appeal to the High Court of Tanzania (One Stop Judicial Centre). AS approached TAWLA for assistance whereas the appeal was filed at the High court. Upon the hearing of both parties, the Appellate Court decided in favor of AS and quashed the decision of the trial Court. AS was awarded 60% of the acquired matrimonial properties.

### 2. **MWK vs MA, Civil Appeal No.84/2022 In the District Court of Dodoma at Dodoma**

TAWLA represented the Respondent, who is deaf and was referred by SHIVYAWATA Dodoma. Our client had bought a Bajaj and engaged the Appellant as driver with agreement that he pays Tsh 20,000/- weekly but in August 2022 he filed a civil suit before Dodoma Urban Primary Court claiming for compensation to the tune of Tshs 7,200,000/- claiming that he had repaired the *bajaj*. At the primary court, he failed to substantiate his claims thus appealed to District Court whereas TAWLA assisted MA in appeal, which was dismissed for lacking merit.

### 3. **MF & 6others vs GA, Civil Application No.65/2022 In the District Court of Dodoma at Dodoma.**

TAWLA represented the Respondent; the respondent is Aunt of the Applicants and was appointed administratrix of the estate of their late father (Applicants' father) and the trial court also declared one house which was included in the estate as property of their grandmother (Respondent's mother), this was agreed by the family back in 2014. In 2020 the Applicants began claiming the house as their property by virtue of being part of the estate of their late father, thus unsuccessfully went to the District Land & Housing Tribunal and later knocked on doors of District Court seeking an extension of time to appeal. TAWLA represented the Respondent, and the application was dismissed for not showing sufficient reason for such a lengthy delay.

#### **4. ES & EN Juvenile Civil Application 20/2023 at the Mbeya Juvenile Court.**

ES and EN, previously in a relationship leading to the birth of their daughter, encountered a dispute when EN disclaimed paternity and rejected responsibility for the child's support. Following ES's awareness of TAWLA's free legal aid, she approached TAWLA for legal assistance. Despite initial reconciliation efforts by TAWLA, EN persisted in denying paternity. Subsequently, TAWLA filed a parentage petition at Mbeya Juvenile Court leading to a court instruction for further reconciliation. During this process, EN acknowledged paternity and committed to providing support. As a result, the court ordered EN to pay Tshs 50,000/= monthly for maintenance, cover school fees, and provide health insurance for the child.

#### **5. GM vs. JM, Matrimonial Appeal No 8 of 2022, at District Court of Monduli.**

GM initiated a matrimonial case against her husband at the Kisongo Primary Court. Despite GM's sole contribution to building the house, the Primary Court ruled in favor of JM, awarding him 70% and GM 30%. Dissatisfied with this decision, GM, represented by TAWLA, appealed to the Monduli District Court.

After hearing both sides, the Appellate Court ruled in favor of GM, overturning the trial court's decision. GM was granted 50% of the other acquired matrimonial properties, and the house was confirmed as her sole property.

#### **6. Reconciliation**

AB sought legal assistance from TAWLA regarding maintenance issues concerning FM, the father of her four children, who had been neglecting his responsibilities. TAWLA facilitated a reconciliation between the parties, resulting in an agreement. According to the agreement, the children will continue residing with their mother, and the father undertakes to provide 150,000/= monthly for their upkeep. Additionally, the father will cover health insurance for all his children, including the youngest who was previously not provided for. He will also contribute to school expenses and house rent. Despite her financial constraints, the mother pledged to contribute what she can. Furthermore, the father is granted convenient access to see the children. The parties formalized their agreement by signing the reconciliation document.

## TANZANIA WOMEN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

### STATEMENT OF DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

It is with great pleasure that I present the TAWLA Annual Report Financial statements report for the year ended 31 December 2023 which captures the dedication, passion, and collective efforts of our entire TAWLA community in advancing gender equality and justice in Tanzania.

The year 2023 has been transformative for TAWLA, marked by significant milestones, impactful initiatives, and sustained commitment to our mission including the enhanced collaborations between TAWLA and stakeholders such as the Judiciary, particularly through one-stop centers aimed at expediting legal cases in the Dodoma and Dar es Salaam regions. The ongoing improvements in partnerships have fostered efficient and streamlined legal processes.

Furthermore, 2023 proved to be a successful year for TAWLA clients, benefiting from the Judiciary's innovative digital case filing methods and collaborative initiatives with educational institutions. These advancements signify TAWLA's commitment to leveraging technological solutions and fostering partnerships to enhance access to justice for its clients.

TAWLA has witnessed the completion of several projects, including the Mwanamke Imara project supported by USAID/Tanzania and the Increased Democratic & Inclusive Election Project (IDIEP) supported by the European Union through We Effect. These projects have significantly contributed to the achievements outlined in this report, further supporting TAWLA in fulfilling its mission and vision. We really appreciate their support.

I express my deepest gratitude to the TAWLA Board of Directors, Chairperson and our esteemed members for their support, dedication, and inspiration which has been instrumental in shaping our successes and fueling our drive to make a meaningful impact.

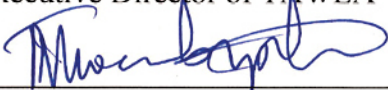
To the incredible TAWLA team, your self-reliance, motivation, and tireless efforts have been the driving force behind our achievements. I am proud to lead a team that continually strives for excellence and shares in the vision of creating a just and equitable society.

A special acknowledgment goes to our valued partners, including USAID/Tanzania, Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHAI), IDLO, WE EFFECT, and Anonymous Donors. We deeply appreciate and we recognize the role you play in our journey.

As we navigate the opportunities ahead, I am confident that TAWLA will continue to be a beacon of positive change. Together, let us forge ahead with determination, inspired by the progress we've made and the vision of a society where every individual is treated with fairness, dignity, and respect.

**Tike Mwambipile**

Executive Director of TAWLA



15/04/2024

Date

## STATEMENT OF GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS' RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

The Governing Board Members are responsible for the preparation of financial statements that gives a true and fair view of Tanzania Women Lawyers Association (“TAWLA” or “The Organization”) comprising the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2023, the statement of financial performance and statement of changes in net assets and statements of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, which includes a summary of significant accounting policies, in accordance with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS).



The Governing Board Members are also responsible for such Internal control as the board determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and for maintaining adequate accounting records and an effective system of risks Management.

The Governing Board Members have assessed the ability of the Organization to continue as going concern and have no reason to believe that the business will not be a going concern at least for the next twelve months from the date of approval of these financial statements.

The auditor is responsible for reporting on whether the financial statements give a true and fair view in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.

### Approval for financial statements

The report and financial statements of Tanzania Women Lawyers Association as identified in the first paragraph, were approved by the Governing Board Members in 2023 and signed by:

	
_____ Lulu Ng'wanakilala Board Chairperson of TAWLA	_____ Tike Mwambipile Executive Director of TAWLA
<u>15/04/2024</u>	<u>15/04/2024</u>
Date	Date

*(Note: A circular stamp of TAWLA is visible in the background, containing the text: TANZANIA WOMEN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION (TAWLA) P.O. BOX 9466 DAR ES SALAAM)*

## DECLARATION OF THE HEAD OF FINANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

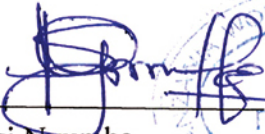
The National Board of Accountants and Auditors (NBAA) according to the power conferred under the Auditors and Accountants (Registration) Cap. 286 R. E. 2002, as amended by Act No. 2 of 1995, requires financial statements to be accompanied with a declaration issued by the Head of Finance responsible for the preparation of financial statements of the Organization concerned.


It is the duty of a Professional Accountant to assist the Governing Board Members to discharge the responsibility of preparing financial statements of an organization showing true and fair view of the Organization position and performance in accordance with applicable International Accounting Standards and statutory financial reporting requirements. Full legal responsibility for the preparation of financial statements rests with Governing Board members as understatement of the Governing Board Member's Responsibilities on an earlier page.

I, **Silasi Nyumba**, being the Head of Finance and Administration for Tanzania Women Lawyers Association here by acknowledges my responsibility of ensuring that financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2023, have been prepared in accordance with International Public Accounting Standards (IPSAS) and NGO Act No. 24 of 2002

I thus confirm that the financial statements of Tanzania Women Lawyers Association (TAWLA) comply with applicable accounting standards as of that date and that they have been prepared based on properly maintained financial records.

Signed by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Silasi Nyumba  
Head of Finance and Administration  
NBAA Membership No. **ACPA 3887**



Date 15/04/2024

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

### **TO THE MEMBERS OF TANZANIA WOMEN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION**

Chairperson of the Board of Directors,  
Tanzania Women Lawyers Association,  
P O Box 9460,  
Dar Es Salaam,  
Tanzania.

#### **Report on audited financial statements.**

##### **Opinion**

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present true and fair view of the financial position of the Tanzania Women Lawyers Association (the "Organisation") as at 31 December 2023, and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) and NGO's Act No 24 of 2002.

##### **What we have audited**

The financial statements of the Organization set out on this report:

- The statement of financial performance for the year ended 31 December 2023;
- The statement of financial position as at 31 December 2023;
- The statement of changes in net assets for the year then ended;
- The cash flow statement for the year then ended; and
- The notes to the financial statements, which include a summary of significant accounting policies.

##### **Basis for Opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISA). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

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Partners: Avelyne J. Msaki | Chrisant C. Bantulaki | Angelica B. Tarimo

## **Independence**

We are independent of the Organisation in accordance with the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (IESBA Code) and the ethical requirements of the National Board of Accountants and Auditors (NBAA) that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Tanzania. We have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the IESBA Code and the ethical requirements of the NBAA.

## **Going Concern**

The Organization's financial statements have been prepared using the going concern basis of accounting. The use of this basis of accounting is appropriate unless management either intends to liquidate the Organization or to cease operations or has no realistic alternative but to do so. As part of our audit of the financial statements, we have concluded that management's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the Organization's financial statements is appropriate.

However, neither management nor the auditor can guarantee the Organization's ability to continue as a going concern.

## **Other information**

The Directors are responsible for other information. The other information which we obtained prior to the date of this auditor's report comprises the Organization's general information, Directors' Report, Statement of Directors' responsibilities and Declaration of the Head of Finance does not include the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not and will not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information identified above and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements, or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed on the other information that we obtained prior to the date of this auditor's report, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

## **Director's responsibility for the Financial Statements**

The Directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with IPSAS and for such internal control as the Directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### **Director’s responsibility for the Financial Statements (Continued)**

In preparing the financial statements, the Directors are responsible for assessing the Organization’s ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Director’s either intend to liquidate the Organization or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Organization’s financial reporting process.

### **Auditors’ Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor’s report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Organisation’s internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Directors.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the Organisation to express an opinion on the financial statements. We are responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the organisation’s audit. We remain solely responsible for our audit opinion

## Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements (continued)

- Conclude on the appropriateness of Directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Organization's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Organization to cease to continue as a going concern.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

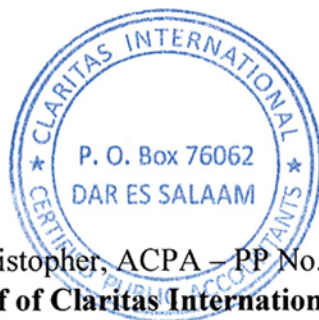
We also provide the Directors with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.

From the matters communicated with the Directors, we determine those matters that were of most significance in the audit of the Organizations' financial statements of the current period and are therefore the key audit matters. We describe these matters in our auditor's report unless law or regulation precludes public disclosure about the matter or when, in extremely rare circumstances, we determine that a matter should not be communicated in our report because the adverse consequences of doing so would reasonably be expected to outweigh the public interest benefits of such communication.

### Use of our reports

This report, including the opinion, has been prepared for, and only for, the Directors of the Organization as a body in accordance with NGO's No 24 of 2002 and for no other purposes.

Signed by:



CPA Chrisant Christopher, ACPA – PP No. 1781

**For and on behalf of Claritas International**

Certified Public Accountants

Dar es Salaam

Date 17/04/2024


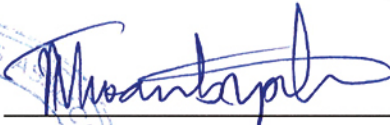
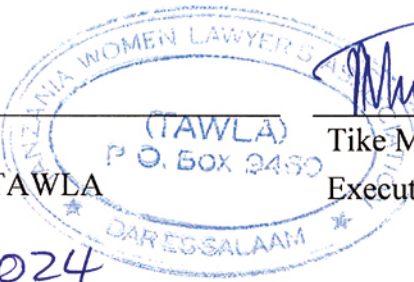
**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE**

		<b>31 Dec 2023</b>	31 Dec 2022
		<b>TZS</b>	TZS
<b>REVENUE</b>	<b>Notes</b>		
Exchange transaction	6	32,374,048	86,168,828
Non-exchange transaction	7	3,419,608,119	4,916,504,033
<b>Total revenue</b>		<u><b>3,451,982,167</b></u>	<u>5,002,672,861</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Project expenses	8	2,340,926,576	3,533,049,418
Administration expenses	9	1,107,892,847	1,498,705,410
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<u><b>3,448,819,423</b></u>	<u>5,031,754,828</u>
<b>Surplus/(deficit) for the year</b>		<u><b>3,162,744</b></u>	<u>(29,081,967)</u>

These financial statements were approved by the Board of Director

for issue on \_\_\_\_\_ 2024 and were signed on their behalf by:

 _____ Lulu Ng'wanakilala Board Chairperson of TAWLA	 _____ Tike Mwambipile Executive Director of TAWLA
	
15/04/2024 _____ Date	15/04/2024 _____ Date

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	<u>31-Dec-23</u> TZS	<u>31-Dec-22</u> TZS
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Non-current assets</b>			
Property and equipment	12	431,352,917	520,996,944
Intangible assets	13	9,136,896	10,221,120
		<u>440,489,813</u>	<u>531,218,064</u>
<b>Current assets</b>			
Subscription and other receivables	10	56,261,462	58,468,418
Cash and bank balances	14	603,388,007	598,625,046
		<u>659,649,469</u>	<u>657,093,464</u>
<b>Total assets</b>		<u><b>1,100,139,282</b></u>	<u><b>1,188,311,528</b></u>
<b>Reserve and current liabilities</b>			
Creditors and accrued expenses	15	56,113,324	153,328,926
Deferred revenue grant	11	607,814,169	548,062,356
		<u>663,627,493</u>	<u>701,391,282</u>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>			
Deferred capital grant	16	1,602,587	72,020,407
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<u><b>665,530,080</b></u>	<u><b>773,411,689</b></u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u><b>434,609,202</b></u>	<u><b>414,899,839</b></u>
<b>ACCUMULATED FUNDS</b>			
Revaluation reserve		494,982,914	494,982,914
Accumulated fund		(60,373,712)	(80,083,075)
<b>Total accumulated fund</b>		<u><b>434,609,202</b></u>	<u><b>414,899,839</b></u>

## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

	<b>Accumulated Fund</b>	<b>Revaluation reserves</b>	<b>Total Reserves</b>
	<b>TZS</b>	<b>TZS</b>	<b>TZS</b>
January 1,2022	(51,001,108)	494,982,914	443,981,806
Deficit for the year	(29,081,967)	-	(29,081,967)
<b>As at 31 December 2022</b>	<b><u>(80,083,075)</u></b>	<b><u>494,982,914</u></b>	<b><u>414,899,839</u></b>
January 2023	(80,083,075)	494,982,914	414,899,839
Prior Year Adjustment	16,546,619	-	16,546,619
Surplus for the year	3,162,744	-	3,162,744
<b>As at 31 December 2023</b>	<b><u>(60,373,712)</u></b>	<b><u>494,982,914</u></b>	<b><u>434,609,202</u></b>

## STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS

	<b>31-Dec-23</b>	31-Dec-22
	<b>TZS</b>	TZS
<b>CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	3,162,744	<b>(29,081,967)</b>
<b>Adjustments for non-cash expenses</b>		
Depreciation of fixed assets	92,781,992	<b>99,408,545</b>
Amortization intangible assets	2,284,224	<b>2,555,280</b>
Loss on disposal	-	<b>(22,715,957)</b>
<b>Changes in operating assets and liabilities</b>		
Increase in receivables	2,206,956	<b>92,635,394</b>
(Decrease)/ increase in payables and provisions	(105,305,501)	<b>125,981,606</b>
Increase/(decrease) in deferred Grant Income	59,751,813	<b>(21,351,388)</b>
<b>Net cash flow from operating activities</b>	<b>54,882,228</b>	<b>247,431,513</b>
<b>Net cash flow from investing activities</b>		
Acquisition of property and equipment	(3,137,966)	<b>(63,026,500)</b>
Acquisition of intangible asset	(1,200,000)	<b>(11,650,000)</b>
Proceed on fixed assets	-	<b>42,416,956</b>
<b>Net cash flow from investing activities</b>	<b>(4,337,966)</b>	<b>(32,259,544)</b>
<b>CASH FLOW FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Retained funds and equity	16,546,619	-
Decrease in deferred asset capital grant	(70,417,820)	<b>(74,319,749)</b>
<b>Net Cash used in Financing</b>	<b>(53,871,201)</b>	<b>(74,319,749)</b>
<b>Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents</b>	4,762,961	<b>140,852,220</b>
Cash and cash equivalent at the beginning of the year	598,625,046	<b>457,772,826</b>
Cash and cash equivalent at end of the year	<b>603,388,007</b>	<b>598,625,046</b>

**STATEMENT OF COMPARISON OF BUDGET AND ACTUAL AMOUNTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

Description	Original budget	Adjustment	Final budget	Actual amount on basis	Actual amount on comparable basis	Performance difference	Performance difference %	Explanation for Material Variations
	[A]	[B]	[C=A-B]	[D]		[E=C-D]	[F=E/C]	
	TZS	TZS	TZS	TZS	TZS	TZS		
Receipts	3,495,904,718	-	3,495,904,718	3,451,982,167	3,441,316,160	43,922,551	1%	(A)
<b>Payments</b>								
Programs related costs	2,274,732,488	76,000,000	2,350,732,488	2,340,926,576	2,340,926,576	9,805,912	0%	(B)
Administration costs	1,221,172,230	(76,000,000)	1,145,172,230	1,107,892,847	1,115,925,183	37,279,383	3%	(C)
<b>Operating surplus/(deficit)</b>				<b>3,448,819,422</b>	<b>3,456,851,759</b>			
				<b>3,162,744</b>				

**STATEMENT OF COMPARISON OF BUDGET AND ACTUAL AMOUNTS (CONTINUED)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

	<b>TZS</b>
Revenue from non-exchange transactions	3,344,994,523
Other income	106,987,644
Decrease in deferred income	59,751,814
Decrease in deferred capital grants	(70,417,821)
Adj of gain on realization of Land	-
<b>Actual Cash Received during the year</b>	<b>3,441,316,160</b>
Administration costs	1,107,892,847
Decrease in prepayment	(2,206,956)
Adj. Depreciation, Amortization, and loss on disposal	(95,066,209)
Increase in payables	105,305,502
<b>Actual Cash Spent during the year</b>	<b>1,115,925,183</b>

TAWLA's budget is prepared on a commitment basis and the financial statements on an accrual basis and covers the period of January 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023 as the financial statements. The budget was approved by the Board on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2022 and Budget was revised on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2023. In the Statement of Financial Performance, expenses are classified based on the function of expenses, whereas in the Statement of Comparison of Budget and Actual Amounts, expenditures are classified by nature.

The nature elaborated in TAWLA Strategic Plan (2021–2025). The amount in the financial statement were recast from the accrual basis and reclassified by presentation to be made on the cash basis. The budget amounts and the financial statement amounts are prepared on a different basis. The statement of comparison of budget and actual amounts above is prepared on the same basis as the budget. Explanation on the deviations is presented on the notes below.

