

TANZANIA WOMEN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

Annual Report 2013





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1. LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

TAWLA	Tanzania Women Lawyers Association
GFC	Gender Forum Coalition on the Constitution
CSO's	Civil Society Organizations
TOT's	Trainer of Trainers
PCCB	Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau
CHRAGG	Commission of Human Rights and Good Governance
TANESCO	Tanzania Electricity Supply Company
TV	Television
SRHR	Sexual Reproductive Health Rights
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
CRC	Constitutional Review Commission
UWT	Umoja wa Wanawake Tanzania
TAMWA	Tanzania Media Women Association
LHRC	Legal and Human Rights Center
WLAC	Women Legal Aid Center
RAW	Rights Action Watch
TLS	Tanzania Law Society
TAGA	Tanzania Gender Accountability
TAYOA	Tanzania Youth Alliance
CWT	Chama Cha Walimu Tanzania
WILDAF	Women in Law and Development in Africa
CWCA	Center for Widows and Children Assistance
GLTF	Gender Land Task Force



UCC	University of Dar es Salaam Computing Center
SIDA	Swedish International Development Agency
LGA	Local Government Authority.
PMORALG	Prime Minister's Office, Regional Administration & Local Government
AGOTA	Association of Gynecologists and Obstetrician Tanzania
UMATI	Chama cha Uzazi na Malezi Bora Tanzania
MEWATA	Medical Women Association of Tanzania
TAMA	Tanzania Association of Mid Wives
WPC	Women Promotion Center



2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 2013 AT A GLANCE



On behalf of the Executive Council, I am sharing with you a report of TAWLA's activities for the year 2013 together with the financial statement for the period.

In December 2010, our Country embarked on a very important process of Constitutional review. TAWLA joined the process with the objective making women's voices heard and advocating for the mainstreaming gender in the new Constitution. We received Draft I of the proposed Constitution by the Constitution Review Commission (CRC) and we discussed it in various forums including several working sessions.. Through the Gender Forum Coalition on the Constitution GFC constituted a technical committee to analyze the draft Constitution vis-à-vis the ten thematic areas laid out in the GFC position paper and submitted our recommendations to the Constitution Review Commission.

We are proud to say that most of our recommendations were taken on board and were included in the second draft Constitution which is currently being deliberated by the Constituent Assembly.

I would also like to extend our heartfelt congratulations the GFC Chair (and TAWLA member) Mrs. Magdalena Rwebangira who was appointed as one of the 201 Constituent Assembly members.

Let me take this opportunity to thank members who have participated in the process up to now through our own constitutional forum and several activities we have has centered around the constitutional review process. We thank our sponsors, partners and well wishers who have been supporting us through thick and thin and keeping us on course. Throughout the year, TAWLA has been largely engaged in capacity building for women including her members and staff at the secretariat.



The organization has also continued its core activity of providing indigent women and children with legal aid and services to enhance their access to justice.

Our association is currently reviewing the TAWLA Constitution and is currently collecting views from members and various stakeholders. I would like to encourage you all to participate in this exercise and air your views to enable the organization to exercise its mandates smoothly. In addition, TAWLA continues to focus on her six key areas that are closely related to gender, good governance and accountability. These include providing legal aid services to vulnerable women and children, promoting land rights for women and children, raising awareness on child labour issues and the treatment of juvenile detainees, campaigning for good governance, undertaking research and advocacy for policy and legislative reforms advocacy and strengthening the capacity and sustainability of the organization.

AISHA ZUMO BADE

CHAIRPERSON



2.2 GREATER CAPACITY TO MEET BIGGER CHALLENGES



Over the years, TAWLA has been on the forefront to champion the rights of women and children. This has been the organizations trademark and will remain as such. To-date, TAWLA has kept the best interests of women and children at heart.

This year, TAWLA has been able to advocate for comprehensive rights of women and children in the draft Constitution. In addition, through the provision of legal aid service, TAWLA has made a track record of successive stories, there have been an increase in number of TAWLA members participating in the association activities, These are a few key achievements that TAWLA has made. Evidently, our services have benefitted the community at large and we as TAWLA take pride in it.

Remarkably, it is through the support of others that TAWLA has able to realize most of the action plans set out for 2013. For this reason, I take this opportunity to thank the Secretariat, the Council and TAWLA members at large. My heartfelt gratitude extends to all of them.

Also, TAWLA would not have realized its goals without the support of Donors who have continuously funded our activities. I extend my special thanks to them for their generous support. Further, I would like to recognize the concerted efforts of all the like-minded organizations that have worked with TAWLA to ensure that the rights of women and children are realized.

Indeed, 2013 was not just a year of gratitude but also one of hard work towards excellence. As we look forward to yet another great year, I urge the TAWLA family to move on with the same spirit, passion, commitment and hard work.

TIKE MWAMBIPILE

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



2.3 BACKGROUND

TAWLA is an NGO that was founded in 1989 and officially registered in 1990. The founding members comprised a group of professional women lawyers who felt the need for an organization that could promote an environment guaranteeing equal rights and access to justice by all, through focusing on vulnerable and marginalized groups, especially women and children. The TAWLA members also recognized the need for women lawyers to foster mutual support for each other in professional advancement and social responsibility.

TAWLA has its headquarters in Dar es Salaam, at Ilala Sharif Shamba Bungoni, Plot 31 and branch offices at Arusha, Tanga and Dodoma. As a way of expanding its outreach TAWLA also networks with legal aid centers and paralegals to enable poor women and children to access legal aid services in the regions where TAWLA does not have branch offices. Currently, TAWLA has over 500 members, who include women lawyers from diverse backgrounds such as state attorneys, private advocates, judges, magistrates, corporate executives, lecturers and legal advisors in both the public and the private sector.

2.3.1 Mission Statement

TAWLA is an NGO committed to the professional advancement of its members and the promotion of women and children's rights and good governance.

2.3.2 Vision Statement

TAWLA envisage a society that respects and upholds human rights.

TAWLA's present activities include:

1. Providing legal aid services to vulnerable women and children,
2. Undertaking policy research and advocacy for legal reform, and campaign for women and children on issues of equality and human rights,
3. Educating the public by raising awareness on gender and legal rights issues through the media, workshops, publications, drama.
4. Campaign for good governance and accountability and
5. Supporting the professional development of women lawyers in Tanzania.



3. THE CONTEXT

To undertake its mission TAWLA has a Four Year Strategic Plan for 2010-2014. The document sets out the programme and institutional design and operational framework of the organization. The strategy builds on the organization's experience in promoting access to justice for women and children in Tanzania.

3.1 How TAWLA Made Progress towards Achieving Its Goals

To achieve our goals and ensure we deliver, TAWLA adopted the following strategies.

- a) Legal aid services to indigent women and children provided: TAWLA continues to provide free and quality services to indigent women and children in Tanga, Dar es Salaam, Arusha and Dodoma. TAWLA advocates, volunteer legal officers and members are engaged in provision of legal aid and provide Trainer of Trainer's (TOTs) training to paralegals about different laws and policies. Communities are also trained and empowered through the work of paralegals who work in the grassroots. Moreover regular self-representation training is conducted to clients who have cases in court.
- b) Women Land rights and children rights promoted: - TAWLA supports and strengthens good working relations with land tribunals to ensure access to justice to our target clients that is women and children. TAWLA produced simplified versions of the laws and procedures related to land and disseminated to the public as part of its advocacy work.
- c) Good local governance enhanced: Structured long-term grassroots interventions in the establishment of strategic relations with good governance institutions such as the Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance (CHRAAG) and the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB). TAWLA is working with the Local Government Authorities (LGAs) to promote good governance and accountability in the grass roots. To this end we have held community conversations during village meetings with the communities that we work with.
- d) Policy and legislative research and advocacy undertaken: Review of various laws and policies which discriminate against women was conducted. This led to a report being done called the Review of Gender Based Violence Related Laws in Tanzania Mainland which is used as the main tool for advocacy to urge the government to amend various laws or repeal them all together as they are discriminative for example the inheritance law and Law of Marriage Act.



3.2 Achievements

1. We have continued to provide legal aid and advice, in the period under review we received 2920 clients.
2. We presented our recommendations to the Constitution Review Commission and 1/3 of our recommendations were considered and incorporated into the December 2013 Draft (draft II).
3. TAWLA staff attended a number of trainings that enabled them to better service delivery to our clients.
4. We also had a number of members actively participate in various activities such as giving legal aid and attending and facilitating at various meetings.
5. We completed construction of our legal aid shed. We now have extra space to cater to our ever growing number of clients.
6. Our office in Arusha moved to a bigger office to enable us cater to more clients.
7. We received 54new members.
8. We were able to launch the pro bono scheme and our members are already representing clients in court.
9. We re-launched the TAWLA website and grew our presence in social media. We have a face book page, twitter and YouTube account. This has enabled donors, young members, researchers and clients looking for legal aid to easily access us.



4. LEGAL AID PROGRAMMES

4.1 Introduction

TAWLA provides legal aid services to indigent women and children in the society through its offices based in Dar es Salaam, Dodoma, Arusha and Tanga regions. TAWLA staff attends to clients every Monday and Wednesday from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm. A total of **2920** clients were attended to with various problems such as matrimonial, inheritance/probate, land, civil and Gender Based Violence (GBV). Through our community paralegals 450 clients were provided with legal aid services. The common results from our legal aid clinics is that some issues end up being sorted through reconciliation. As such there is no need to file such matters in court, some end up being disposed through referrals to social welfare and other Legal Aid providers and some are filed in court and clients either carry out self representation or they get representation from TAWLA.

Table of number of clients per issue in TAWLA legal Aid clinics

Issue	Number
Matrimonial	1144
Civil Matter	128
Inheritance or probate	560
Land Matter	112
Child custody and Maintenance	408
Sexual Reproductive Health Rights	0
Labour	144
General Advice	224
Domestic violence	48
Rape and Sexual Assault	24
Other	128
Total	2920

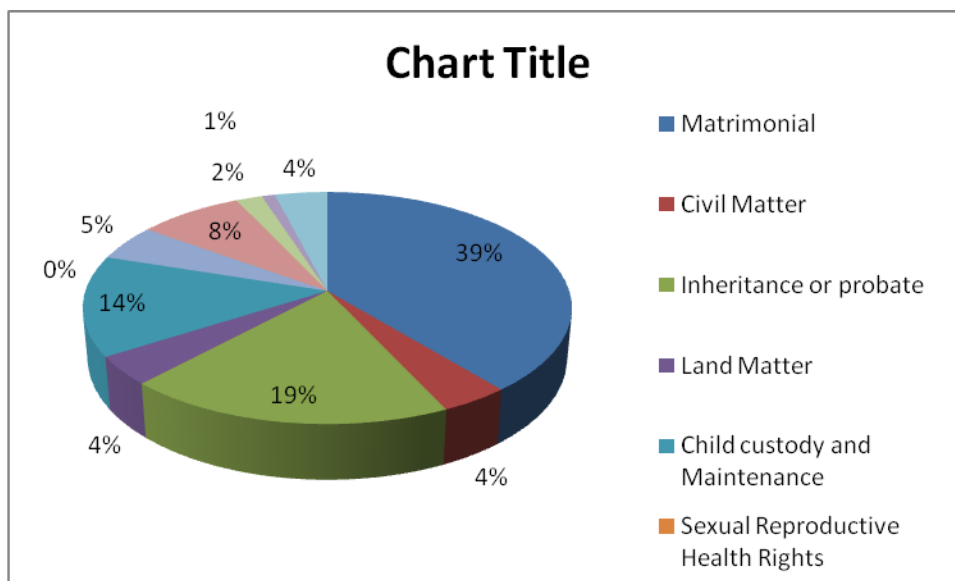


Figure 1 The percentage of clients per problem in TAWLA legal aid clinic

4.2 Self representation Training

Although we are building capacity for more members and staff to represent clients in court, it is not possible for every one of our clients to get representation. To ensure that our clients are empowered to represent themselves we conduct self-representation training for our legal aid clients. Self representation has been a strategy that enables a number of women with cases in court to represent themselves. In the period under review 80 women who had cases were trained to represent themselves in court. A post training evaluations reveals that 80% of the participants expressed that before the training they were not confident to represent themselves in court but after the training now they now felt they were able to represent themselves.

4.3 Capacity Building for Paralegals

TAWLA trained Paralegal training in 5 regions covering several districts. In Arusha TAWLA covered Arusha Municipal, Monduli, Karatu, Arumeru and Longido. In Dodoma: Kongwa, Mpwapwa, Chamwino and Bahi. In Tanga: Muheza and Tanga Municipal. In Katavi: Mpanda Rural, Mpanda Urban and Mlele. In Dar es Salaam



Temeke, Kinondoni and Ilala. In Pwani: Kisarawe. In Morogoro Mvomero and lastly in Mwanza: Ilemela and Magu.

A total of 365 paralegals were trained in various topics such as land rights and settlement of disputes, matrimonial issues, inheritance and probate issues, child rights, gender based violence and sexual and reproductive health rights. These paralegals enhance access to justice through provision of legal advice to people in their communities as well as legal and human rights education.

4.4 Pro Bono Scheme and Cases in Court

TAWLA has been carrying out a scheme whereby legal aid clients are referred to members who are practicing advocates and have signed up to give back to the community through volunteering their time and legal services to the women of Tanzania. They mostly handle cases filed far away from the four TAWLA offices thereby bringing TAWLA services closer to the women.

In order to strengthen this scheme, TAWLA conducted a two day training in November 2013 for its members on what it entails to make the scheme successful. This was done in collaboration with FIDA Kenya which has been running a similar scheme. By the end of 2013, we had a team of advocates who signed up for the scheme. They all have been assigned cases and are representing clients in court. More advocates are going to be trained and hopefully join this noble cause. .

4.5 Challenges of the Legal Aid Programme

1. Despite the use of our weekly legal aid clinics and the use of paralegals, we are still unable to reach as many women and children as we want to. This is due to the fact that we only have office in 4 regions, Dar es Salaam Arusha, Dodoma and Tanga.
2. Delays in court processes especially where clients end up dying before the matter is concluded and their right to justice is not achieved.

4.6 lessons learnt

1. Mobile clinics and use of paralegals have proved to be a great asset in reaching clients who are unable to come to TAWLA offices but Dar es Salaam in itself is quite big. For TAWLA to meet its vision and mission



there is need for a sub branch in Dar es Salaam and venturing into other regions to reach as many clients as possible.

2. Use of paralegals and other institutions at the grass root levels is an effective advocacy strategy.
3. Networking and cooperation in programming and training fosters an effective use of resources but also limits duplicity. It also enables us to have a system of referrals.



5. PUBLICITY AND ADVOCACY PROGRAMMES

5.1 Media Advocacy

5.1.1 Radio Programs

TAWLA produced 35 Radio Programs which are aimed to create and raise awareness of the community on various issues. The themes revolved around good governance, gender equity and sexual and reproductive health rights. They brought together various stakeholders working around the thematic areas including lawyers, Local government leaders, Police officers, Gender desk officers, Doctors (members of AGOTA and Mewata), PCCB, and CHRAGG. The Radio Programs are still being aired on Mwambao Fm (Tanga), Sunrise Radio(Arusha) and Mwangaza Radio(Dodoma). These programs are recorded and target community radio stations

We participated in the following programs which are aired live and viewers can call in and ask questions; ITV in ijue sheria program and ITV radio kumepambazuka na sheria, we sponsor KIPIMA JOTO which is a TV program where we air about sexual and reproductive health rights and good governance on different legal issues on different radio stations in Dar, Dodoma, Arusha and Tanga region

5.1.2 TV Spots

Two TV spots were produced on good governance and sexual reproductive health rights. The spots are aired during a primetime TV program *Kipima Joto* on ITV in every Friday. These spots are intended to use performing arts and drama to raise awareness on reproductive health rights and good governance. These Spots are also available in our website.

5.1.3 Video Documentaries

TAWLA produced two video documentaries for raising awareness and advocacy. The documentaries were aired on TV. One was a documentary on the Constitution Review process and how TAWLA and Gender Forum participated in the process to mainstream gender in the new Constitution and the other was on the impact of Paralegals activities in the community; which shows what the paralegals do, success stories and challenges they face. The documentary further showcases the efforts made by the legal aid providers to advocate for the legal recognition of paralegal



5.1.4 Newspaper Articles

A number of articles were featured in various newspapers such as on 20th July 2013 in the Daily News we had an article entitled TAWLA constrained by women's inadequate legal literacy which show cased how women are not aware on legal rights and remedies available to them. Another article on 21st July 2013 in the Sunday News showed that once women became aware of their rights the number of women who participated in land cases increased. We had an article showcasing the importance of writing a will while still alive that was published in Nipashe newspaper on 3rd August 2013.

Another article was on gender based violence. A training manual for media to boost the fight was published on 6th August 2013 in the Daily News. On 20th August 2013 in the newspaper Mwananchi, a story was published about TAWLA's visit to a children's home in Vingunguti where TAWLA donated food and cement to the home. The Guardian on 30th September 2013 published our story on the plight of adolescent girls in unplanned pregnancies.

5.1.6 Social Media

TAWLA re-launched its website www.tawla.or.tz in October 2013 in order to strengthen its online presence. Now TAWLA is also on Facebook -TAWLA Tanzania Women Lawyers Association , Twitter-Tawla Tz and have our own Youtube channel as Tawla Tanzania. Together with the official website we adopted social media as a means of engaging with members and the community at large!

In June 2013 TAWLA started producing a quarterly Newsletter in which TAWLA provides information on past activities and all current updates on the projects. Furthermore TAWLA gives the latest figures of legal aid clients attended to during that period. The putting a face to a name feature allows members to read about one of their own. . Each newsletter is published on the website, linked via Social Media and distributed via Email to all stakeholders, members and subscribers.



Figure 2 screenshot of www.tawla.or.tz

5.1.4 Publications

TAWLA was able to print 700 copies of the position paper on Gender mainstreaming of the Constitution Review process. This was in English and was handed over to the CRC and the rest disseminated to the public. 1000 copies were printed in Kiswahili so that the information can be able to be understood by the people at the grass root level who form a bulk of our clients. A training manual on good governance, gender, sexual and reproductive health rights was also printed as an advocacy tool. There were 700 copies in Kiswahili and 500 in English.

Several brochures were printed as advocacy tools which include 500 copies on good governance and sexual and reproductive health rights, 250 copies on 'Ujue Umuhimu wa Wosia na Utaratibu Wake' and on 'Taratibu za utatuzi wa migogoro ya Ardhi' and 1500 copies on "Maoni ya muungano wa jinsia na Katiba Gender Forum Coalition on the Constitution.



5.2 Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights

1. TAWLA conducted training for all staff in order to improve their knowledge on Sexual and reproductive health rights. Staff was trained on policies, laws and international conventions which are related to SRHR. Staff received training on HIV Aids, sexualities and gender based violence. The main objective of the training was to equip staff to understand and appreciate SRHR and then raise awareness in communities.
2. 80 Health workers (35 male and 45 female) were trained on Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights. Training was focused on Human Rights, SRHR as human Rights, Situation analysis in Tanzania, Policy and Legislations related to SRHR in Tanzania, regional and international instruments, HIV Aids, Gender Based Violence and SRHR and SRHR and gender issues. Health workers are now collaborating with TAWLA and Paralegals in raising awareness in the communities, According to the evaluation which we have conducted after training 90% of the participants expressed themselves that the training improved their knowledge and they will use the training on their daily professional work.
3. Training of 46(21male and 25 female) paralegals on SRHR in Dar es Salaam, Tanga, Dodoma and Arusha was also done to impart SRHR knowledge to the paralegals . Paralegals were trained on SRHR as human rights, HIV Aids law and policies, harmful practices, national legal frameworks and how to raise awareness in the community and help members of their community to access their legal rights.



Paralegal group work in DSM



5.3 Community Conversations

TAWLA conducted 10 community conversations on SRHR in Arusha, Dodoma, Tanga and Dar es Salaam and the key issues which were discussed during the community conversation were 12 pillars of sexual reproductive Health Rights, family planning, balanced diet for children and effects of early marriages. These meetings were facilitated by the trained paralegals and health workers in collaboration with TAWLA staff. Non formal method /edutainment including Drama groups were used to ensure that they attract lots of people and send the message to participants is very easy. Nyota Njema Sanaa group performed the song called **“KUZAA SIO KAZI KULEA NDIO KAZI”** (To have a child is not an issue, to raise the child will be the challenge) in Mahamha village Dodoma. The song insisting on family planning as responsibility between two parents to decide child spacing which will help in raising the kids and not only one parent mother. Also the song reminding the community on the free services provided in the village health centers or dispensary.



Figure 3 Nyota Njema Sanaa group performing family planning song and role play

5.4 Courtesy Visit

TAWLA's Council members and programme officer in the Land Rights Department visited Mwanza where they met with LGA's, members of parliament and judges to introduce TAWLA's new land project entitled “promoting women access to land in Tanzania” which is to be implemented in Magu and Ilemela. They used the opportunity to enlighten those in attendance about their intention of opening a branch office in Mwanza.

5.5 Challenges



Despite our best efforts in advocacy, the number of publications we printed was not sufficient to meet the demands of our target audience for example there are areas that we went to distribute the second draft of the Constitution but those in attendance could not get a copy each.

5.6 Lessons learnt

We need to source for more funding to increase the number of publication that we print in order to meet the demand.



6. TAWLA INITIATIVES IN THE CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW PROCESS

The Gender and Constitution Forum (GFC) is a network of civil society organizations coordinated by TAWLA and working in the area of advocating for inclusion of gender and women rights in the Constitution review process. The GFC member organizations are; Women and Law in East Africa (Tanzania) – (WLEA- T), Rights Action Watch (RAW), and Tanzania Gender Accountability (TAGA). The Gender Forum envisions a new constitution that effectively and articulately addresses gender, women and youth issues.

The GFC was actively involved in the constitutional review process throughout the year under review. To this end, several consultative workshops were held in Tanga, Dodoma, Arusha, Zanzibar, Lindi, Kilimanjaro, Mwanza and Dar es Salaam with councilors who are also engaged in the constitutional review processes, community based organisations (CBOs), NGOs, civil society organisations (CSOs), and representatives from the Tanzania Police Force, Tanzania Prisons Services, the Open University of Tanzania, Department of Social Welfare and many more. We also conducted a stakeholders information sharing and advocacy meeting with parliamentary committee members, Ministries and other women groups.

We edited and handed over to the Constitutional Review Commission (CRC) copies of a position paper on what we want to be reflected in the new Constitution from a gender perspective. Our Recommendations were handed over to the CRC in August, 2013. The issues in the second draft as compared to our position paper showed to what percentage those issues were considered by the Commission.

ISSUE	CONSIDERED in %
Women's Access to Land & Property Rights.	20
Supremacy of the Constitution, Equality & Non Discrimination.	33
Protection of Women & Children Rights to ensure their dignity	57
Women's equal representation in decision making bodies	50
Good governance & Accountability	40



Figure 4 Hon. Getrude Mongella (left), former M.P of the Pan-African Parliament airing her views on the constitutional review process.



7. LAND RIGHTS PROGRAM

7.2 Research on Women's Land Rights in Tanzania's Pastoral Areas

TAWLA Programme land officers under the supervision of International Land Coalition (ILC) team conducted a research on women's land rights in pastoral areas at Kiteto district in Manyara Region and Chemba District in Dodoma Region. The research objectives were to explore the nature of women's rights to land in pastoral areas/societies, compared to the rights that men have; and how they assert or realise their rights; land use/management of rangelands, pastoral livelihoods and societies; to evidence on how pastoral women can secure ownership or control over land and access to it; to observe the impact of recent land reform policies; and to identify opportunities and challenges they are facing pastoral women. The research was completed and the report is being used as an advocacy tool in campaigning for women land rights.



Rangeland Resource Mapping Exercise with women at Ingarbolo village- Kiteto district.



8. STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY AND SUSTAINABILITY OF THE ORGANIZATION

8.1 Executive Council Meetings and Committees

TAWLA Executive Council is formed by seven members of whom six are elected from the membership in an AGM for two years. The seventh member is the immediate past chairperson of TAWLA. Executive Council is composed of Chairperson, Vice chairperson, honorary treasurer, honorary secretary, immediate past chair and two members. The Council meets quarterly per year for ordinary meetings but may hold any extra ordinary meeting where there is an emergency issue to resolve.

Some of the important decisions by the executive Council for year 2013

- I. The Executive Council resolved to restructure the organization and a consultant was engaged to review TAWLA's structure, salary scheme and Human resource manual. This process was approved by Council and is now at the implementation stage.
- II. The Council visited the branch offices to monitor the activities in branch offices, meet members and hold meetings with members to discuss about TAWLA and its future prospects. They were able to recruit new members and initiate restructuring of the branch offices which is now complete.
- III. A committee to review TAWLA's Constitution was formed and the work is ongoing. Proposed amendments will be tabled to the 2014 AGM.
- IV. Council members paid a courtesy visit to Mwanza to meet various Government leaders and members of TAWLA to express intention to open a branch in Mwanza to reach more women in the lake zone.

8.2 Midterm Review of the Strategic Plan

TAWLA Conducted a midterm review of its strategic plan 2010-2015 in April 2013. The purpose of the midterm review to go through our strategic plan and identify what we have planned to achieve comparing with what we have achieved. TAWLA went through its milestones/targets to determine if they are realistic, challenges which we are facing when implementing our strategic plan and the way forward. Furthermore we reviewed our organization structure in order to see if it is able to perform its mandate. It was resolved that TAWLA needs to restructure its organization structure for smooth implementation of the strategic plan. Through TAWLA



procurement procedure the consultant engaged to undertake this task of restructuring TAWLA as an organization.

8.3 New Monitoring & Evaluation tools (M & E)

Monitoring and evaluation is important as it provides the only consolidated source of information showcasing project progress. It allows actors to learn from each other's experiences, building on expertise and knowledge. It generates reports that contribute to transparency and accountability, and allows for lessons to be shared more easily. It also adds to the retention and development of institutional memory.

We introduced Monitoring and Evaluation tools that have enabled us analyze the delivery and execution of various programmes in different departments. We have a centralized system for all branch offices at the head office. This has enabled TAWLA as an organization to evaluate our services to clients and look at areas that we can improve on.

8.4 Networking

Networking is very important to TAWLA. It is the platform through which we meet with members of other organizations, share ideas and learn from each other on best practices. TAWLA has networked internationally, regionally and locally.

TAWLA partnered with International Land Coalition, Maliasili Initiates, Kinapa and Dodoma Environmental Network of Tanzania (DONET) for a Research on Women's Land Rights in Pastoral Areas of Tanzania; International Centre for Research on Women (ICRW) for advocacy on women property rights and M & E capacity building; Lake Victoria Rights Programme, with this partnership FIDA Kenya, FIDA Uganda and TAWLA intend to establish a forum for the East African Women Lawyers Association which will also include similar associations in Rwanda and Burundi. This will help represent women issues in the East African Community Integration and lastly, we are part of the coalition for addressing maternal mortality issues in Tanzania. The coalition is made up of Association of Gynecologists and Obstetrician Tanzania (AGOTA), Umoja Malezi Tanzania (UMATI), Marie Stopes, Women Protection Center (WPC), Pathfinder (Medical Women Association of Tanzania) MEWATA and Tanzania Association of Midwives (TAMA). We are the secretariat of this coalition. Our mandate is to collectively advocate for reduction of maternal mortality.



9. OVERALL CHALLENGES

1. TAWLA has initiated a community conversation in all the target areas to enable participation of the community in the statutory meetings. The community conversation is a strategy that TAWLA participate in the village meetings and make follow up at the same time give legal aid and raise awareness to the community on the issue of sexual reproductive Health rights .However low attendance from the community members in the village meetings is the main issue. As an organization we capacitated local government leaders from the village level to the district level on the issues of good governance and accountability whereby we encouraged the leaders to share the report on the income and expenditure of the village as part of good governance and accountability. The low attendance during the village meetings by the community members affects the practice of Good governance and accountability including the sharing of audited income and expenditure reports to the community. In order to improve this situation TAWLA uses edutainment method e.g. the use of Drama groups to attract more audiences.
2. Due too many activities conducted by TAWLA one car in Dar es Salaam Office and another in Dodoma are not enough. Because of limited vehicle few people utilize it while others are forced to use their own transport for office work and mostly without any refund and sometimes person car it's difficult for accountability.

10. LESSONS LEARNT

1. TAWLA and development partners can only be effective if we target our capacity development strategies at the rights-holder and the duty-bearer simultaneously. This was evident during the training of health workers where it was seen that they did not know about certain rights.
2. The use of Edutainment approach (Non formal) e.g. Drama Group. This was evidently shown during the Sexual reproductive health community conversation whereby more audiences were attracted with the drama group and they expressed that the message was understood easily.
3. The use of relevant bottom-up approaches and puts people at the grass roots at the centre of its approach from the level of planning and programming to implementation and execution.



4. TAWLA learnt not to treat the justice sector in isolation but integrate for the enhancement of rights, awareness, enablement and enforcement in other sectors.
5. TAWLA learnt that as state accountability is central, we should work on improving trust and confidence in the state as the duty-bearer – a relevant contribution to good governance and pro-poor growth.
6. Networking and coordinating with partners and other likeminded organization can bring effective results and solidarity.
7. Media is a powerful agent of change. We can make effective and rapid changes because media reach many people at the same time. It is also important to use the local media of the region to make the message that one wants to deliver to be understood by the community members.
8. The use of trained community paralegals in our areas of operation is very important. This is very useful in delivering the message in community level where TAWLA we don't have any office or we are not going frequently. Also is useful for project sustainability because trained community paralegals are coming from the villages and their volunteers, so even when there is no fund they will continue to provide legal Aid and raising awareness on sexual reproductive health in their communities through community meetings.
9. It is important to conduct regular and strategic awareness programs on different laws and policies that affect the community members. During the community conversations meeting and training we noted most government officials are not aware of most of the laws and policies. A lot has to be done in this area to facilitate the local government official to implement their daily activities with knowledge of the relevant laws, policies and practice.

11.0 PROGRAMME RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Provision of legal aid services should continue as many women and children are in need of legal aid in order to access justice. Equal Access to justice is one component of good governance.
2. Capacity building for right holders and duty bearers should continue based on issues of; good governance and accountability, human rights, gender, legal issues and sexual and reproductive health rights.
3. Participation and inclusion of youth in implementation of programs as youth are good agents of change.



4. Monitoring and reporting on the status of good governance and accountability for instance through conducting Public Expenditure programme that measure community satisfaction on social services delivery.
5. Continue to be active in the Constitution review and monitor the process to ensure intensive advocacy for mainstreaming gender in the new constitution.
6. Advocate for recognition of paralegals and enactment of Paralegal Act because it is related to access to justice for vulnerable women and children.
7. Strategic Media advocacy and community dialogues i.e. conventional media and traditional media utilization for adherence to good governance and accountability in all TAWLA thematic areas. Produce and air radio programs in the local radio stations. Participate in the formal community meetings in order to reach out to the community.
8. Strategically partner and collaborate, with Prime Minister's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government (PMORALG) and Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance. ?? to achieve?
9. Advocate for health facilities and right to information to increase community outreach so as to take services closer to the people.
10. Capacity building of strategic stakeholders through; conducting awareness raising sessions on various laws and policies through various means i.e. workshops, media and through local government forums like village meetings.
11. Advocate for advocates to take part in providing pro bono legal services to vulnerable women and children
12. Take legal services closer to the community for instance through establishment and effectively publicizing a toll free hot line service in all TAWLA regional offices.
13. Conduct research and present research findings to policy makers, regional and international human rights bodies in the programme thematic areas.
14. Strengthen collaboration with each other and strategically network and partner with stakeholders like government, communities, the programme target group and development partners.



12. Conclusion

Promoting the existence of rights and legal awareness is crucial for creating a demand for rights implementation. For those who are unaware of their rights and any existing solutions, legal redress and access to justice are meaningless. Information has to reach poor people in ways they can understand. Both government and non-governmental actors can play an essential role in implementing strategies to create legal awareness. Outreach to the grassroots level and the provision of adequate information for poor, sometimes illiterate People, needs to continue. Issues of Good governance and accountability are still a challenge especially at the local government. Issues of SRHR as well are not points of discussion to many