

Mwanamke IMARA

Project Newsletter





M W A N A M K E I M A R A
Project Newsletter

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Tike Mwambipile Mwanamke Imara Chief of Party



Dear readers,

It is with great pleasure that I present to you this feature of our Newsletter which introduces our first year of the Mwanamke Imara Project. It is a project that aims at ending violence in the targeted regions through improving access to justice for women and young girls on right based issues (i.e., Land and property rights, inheritance, and gender-based violence), amplifying women voices and participation in leadership, decision making and governance; and strengthening women and youth economic groups in Mbeya, Njombe and Kilimanjaro and enhance their access to resources including finances. I hope you enjoy reading about the milestones reached.



The overall objective of Mwanamke Imara Project is to end all forms of violence and discrimination against women and young people in Tanzania by empowering women and young people to challenge violence and discrimination at the family level and within the community.

Specific Objectives:

1. To increase women and girls' access to justice on right based issues (land and property rights, inheritance, and gender-based violence) in Mbeya, Njombe and Kilimanjaro.
2. Increase women and young people's voices and participation in leadership, decision making structures and governance in Mbeya, Njombe, and Kilimanjaro.
3. Strengthening women and youth economic groups by enhancing their access to information and control over resources in Mbeya, Njombe and Kilimanjaro.

Envisaged Project Results:

Result 1: Improved access to justice to women and young people on right based issues in Mbeya, Njombe and Kilimanjaro.

Result 2: Strengthened GBV protection and response mechanism to effectively address GBV in Mbeya, Njombe and Kilimanjaro.

Result 3: Amplified women and young people's voices and participation in leadership, community decision making structures and governance.



1. Tanzania Women Lawyers' Association (TAWLA)
2. Women in Law and Development in Africa (WILDAF)
3. Tanzania Network of Legal Aid Providers (TANLAP)
4. Kilimanjaro Women Information Exchange Company Organization (KWIECO)

Implementation of the Mwanamke Imara Activity is made possible through generous support of the American People through USAID/Tanzania.

Geographical Coverage:

The activity targets three regions of Tanzania, namely Mbeya, Njombe and Kilimanjaro whereas the total direct beneficiaries expected under this program is 180,073 for the entire 3 years of the project and expects to indirectly reach 688,710 people in Mbeya, Njombe and Kilimanjaro.

Improved access to justice to women and young people on right based issues in Mbeya, Njombe and Kilimanjaro

1. In efforts to see the prospects of this objective, Mwanamke Imara has established three (3) Legal Aid Clinics in Mbeya, Njombe and Moshi respectively. These clinics provide legal aid services and act as link to the main offices on the services provided by paralegals who have managed to attend a total of 982 clients in the project areas.





An office signage for Mwanamke Imara Legal Aid Clinic in Mbeya-Sae.



Devine Itemba, TAWLA's Communications Officer posing by the signage for Mwanamke Imara Legal Aid Clinic in Njombe.

- Among the success stories of the Mwanamke Imara Legal Aid Scheme is the story of Stella Rhoda Mwangamula from Kikota village in Kiwira ward. She had a land case originated from a probate cause from a land which was left to her by her deceased mother. Her uncle wanted to take it from her claiming that she was not worthy of inheriting a land from her mother. Mwanamke Imara through TANLAP assisted her to maintain her ownership of the land by emerging successful on the land case that was filed against her by the uncle.



Ms. Stella Rhoda Mwangamula standing on the doorway of her house that is located at a plot of land that was left to her by her deceased mother.



2. Among the success stories of the Mwanamke Imara Legal Aid Scheme is the story of Stella Rhoda Mwangamula from Kikota village in Kiwira ward. She had a land case originated from a probate cause from a land which was left to her by her deceased mother. Her uncle wanted to take it from her claiming that she was not worthy of inheriting a land from her mother. Mwanamke Imara through TANLAP assisted her to maintain her ownership of the land by emerging successful on the land cause that was filed against her by the uncle.



Mr. Gaston Nzuku, Ludewa Paralegal Unit Chairperson

4. Provision of bicycles to paralegals and community animators in facilitating access to justice to local communities eases their movements as they serve fellow community members through provision of legal aid services. A total of 120 paralegals and community animators were provided with branded Mwanamke Imara



One of the members of the Ludewa paralegal unit receiving a bicycle from Mr. Thomas Kiwoyi, Ludewa District Community Development Officer.

5. wanamke Imara held mobile legal aid camps to community members in remote areas. This has been a good practice in provision of legal aid services to community members where these camps are put in open areas where most community members have access to, such as near by the marketplace. Mwanamke Imara's legal officers, paralegals and district legal officers from the District Authorities also participate in the provision of legal aid services in the project sites.



A community member at Shauri Moyo village, Lugarawa Ward, Ludewa DC receiving legal aid from a Paralegal.

6. Establishment of the Legal Support Network on family law related issues managed to draft the Anti Gender Based Violence (GBV) Bill and the Code of Conduct for family law practitioners as part of enhancing access to justice and promotion of women rights.

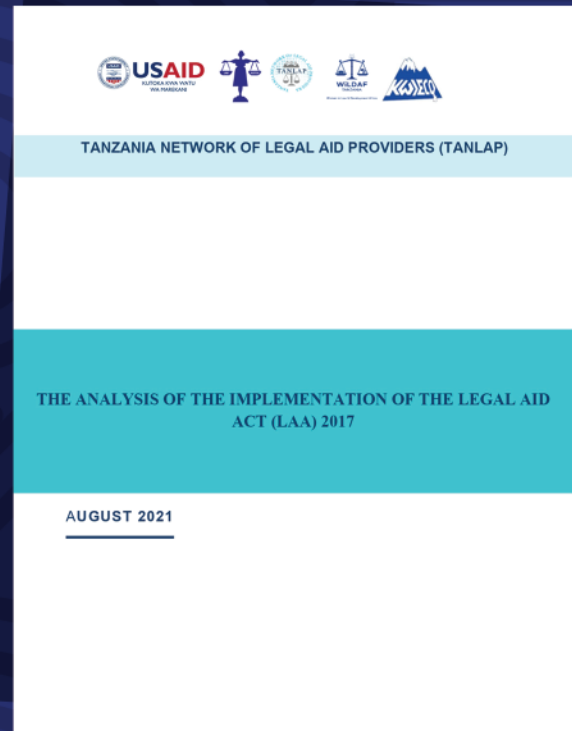


7. Increased collaboration with justice delivery stakeholders as a way to contribute to increasing access to justice to vulnerable women and youths in the project sites. Mwanamke Imara through TANLAP worked with the President's Office - Regional, Administrative and Local Government (PO-RALG) and the Ministry of Constitution and Legal Affairs (MoCLA) to review the paralegal training manual and guideline.



Members from the government institutions, other stakeholders and Mwanamke Imara team reviewing the paralegal manual and guideline in one of their working sessions.

8. Mwanamke Imara through TANLAP published a report on an analysis on the status of the implementation of the Legal Aid Act of 2017. This analysis has identified key achievements, lessons learnt, areas for improvement, areas that require stakeholders' engagement and challenges associated with the implementation of the Legal Aid Act since its enactment in 2017.



Members from the government institutions, other stakeholders and Mwanamke Imara team reviewing the paralegal manual and guideline in one of their working sessions.

Strengthened GBV protection and response mechanism to effectively address GBV in Mbeya, Njombe and Kilimanjaro

1. Increased collaboration with justice delivery stakeholders as a way to contribute to increasing access to justice to vulnerable women and youths in the project sites. Mwanamke Imara through TANLAP worked with the President's Office - Regional, Administrative and Local Government (PO-RALG) and the Ministry of Constitution and Legal Affairs (MoCLA) to review the paralegal training manual and guideline.



A group picture of members of the Mwanamke Imara Shule Salama Club at Kiwira Secondary School.

2. Students at Shule Salama Club managed to start a school garden where they grow different vegetables. This acts as a means to keep themselves occupied during their free time and raise funds for their daily needs. This has attracted interests of other students at their school who want to join the club.



3. Mwanamke Imara through WiLDAF capacitated members of the Police Gender and Children Desk (PGCD) on Gender Based Violence and how to handle GBV cases including child abuse cases



Members of Police Gender and Children Desks and Mwanamke Imara Implementing Partners during the Training that took place at Kilimanjaro

4. Mwanamke Imara published the Police Gender and Children Desk Directories for Mbeya, Njombe and Kilimanjaro. The published directories contain locations of the PGCD in the project areas, names and contacts of police officers who serve on those desks.



5. Mwanamke Imara has capacitated 10 members of the Judiciary from project areas on the complexity of Gender Based Violence (GBV), sensitivity of handling GBV cases including collection of evidence and treatment of victims and witnesses.



Judge in Charge of the High Court of Tanzania Tanga, Hon. Latifa Mansour (seated in the middle) with Magistrates during a training conducted at Institute of Judicial Administration (IJA), Lushoto Tanga tanga

6. Mwanamke Imara has capacitated members of the Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC) Committee in all 7 councils of the project area on understanding their roles in ending Gender Based Violence (GBV) issues. Mwanamke Imara also facilitates VAWC quarterly meetings where members meet, share their experience on the activities implemented during a particular quarter, discuss on issues raised during implementation and plan together on the best way to deal with issues they face during implementation of their activities/duties.



A group photo of members of VAWC Committee at Makete District during one of their quarterly meetings.

A group photo of members of VAWC Committee at Makete District during one of their quarterly meetings.

1. Enactment of gender sensitive and youth focused by laws to strengthen women and young people's voices and participation in governance in 30 villages, 10 from each region. The purpose of these by-laws is to increase women and young people's voices and participation in governance of community affairs at the village level by addressing structural barriers that limit effective participation of women and young people in key decision-making structures at the village level and village assemblies.





A village assembly meeting in Kiwira village on passing the gender sensitive by law.

2. Participation of women and youth in political party's elections in Amani and Ligumbilo villages in Ludewa district. This is a result of community awareness session on gender and leadership role to change community perception on women and youth leaders that were conducted. A total of 38 (9 female and 29 male) youths from project site participated.



Community members during community awareness session on gender and leadership role to change community perception on women and youth leaders at Mbugani village in Ludewa District

Strengthening women and youth economic groups by enhancing their access to information and control over resources in Mbeya, Njombe and Kilimanjaro.

Mwanamke Imara Activity through KWIECO is working to strengthen and enhance women and youth economic groups on access to and control over resources and information. Mwanamke Imara activity believes that economic empowerment to women and youths is amongst greatest stimuli factor to promote access to justice and eradicate gender-based violence associated with economic dependency.

1. So far Mwanamke Imara Activity has capacitated a total of 300 economic groups consisting of 4,028 members (1348 youths: 2680 women). Such groups engage themselves in different economic activities such as poultry farming, bakery, livestock keeping, "batik" and soap making.



2. Mwanamke Imara through its business guarantee scheme created a reserved fund with AMANA bank to support guarantee scheme where women and youth can access financial assistance to improve their enterprises activities. Mwanamke Imara through its business guarantee scheme from AMANA bank has provided financial empowerment valuing at 153,600,000 Tanzania shillings (TZS) to 231 economic beneficiaries in Mbeya Region. The beneficiaries are now able to expand their businesses, buy more business equipment and other goods which attract sales and capital expansion.



A member of Tujikomboe group from Lubonde ward displaying some of the cakes she baked because of the skills training, she received from Mwanamke Imara's skills training activities.

3. Mwanamke Imara Activity has assisted the economic groups to establish information sharing platforms such as WhatsApp groups which enables them to get markets for their products and share information relating to market and price for their products.

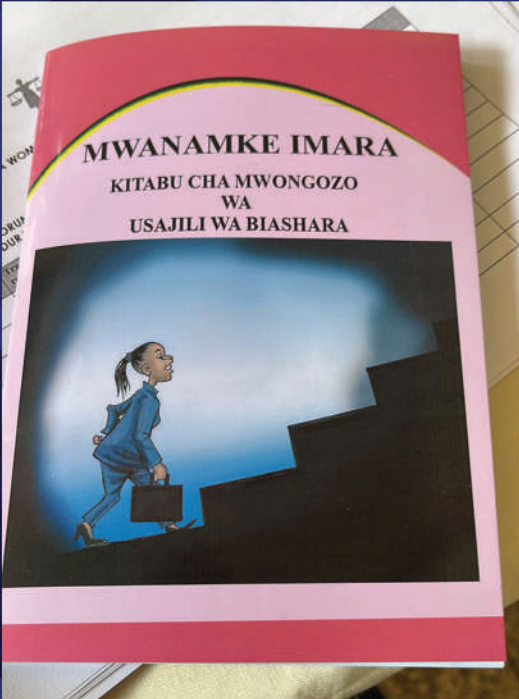


Soap making in Ludewa district



Snacks making in Rungwe district

- 5. Mwanamke Imara Activity through KWIECO published a directory for business registration, which is used to register, obtain license to pay taxes and other procedures to be used by partner organizations (KWIECO, TANLAP, WiLDAF, TAWLA) in the implementation of the project activities in women and youth economic empowerment.



An extract of Mwanamke Imara's business registration directory

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