

SLF supports a variety of projects in in **TANZANIA**

Centre for Public, Law and Social Economic Rights Advocacy

Alice Malepu is Administrator



Established in 1995, LHRC is a human rights project of the Tanzania Legal Education Trust with some interventions in Zanzibar. It works to promote, reinforce and safeguard human rights and good governance in Tanzania.

The founders were seeing increasing human rights violations, such as land evictions of Maasai pastoralists, abuses of the people of Hanang whose land had been acquired by the Government and turned into the big wheat farms of NAFCO. Many citizens who had problems because of ignorance of the law and of their rights. Human rights camps organized by the University of Dar es Salaam were starting to raise awareness on issues of human rights and citizen's responsibility.

As civil servants, the university lecturers wanted to avoid the risks involved in challenging the State and decided to set up an independent, non- governmental human rights centre, and so LHRC was established.

It has built capacities of young lawyers, most of whom are now fearless activists and frontline human rights defenders both at home and abroad. LHRC has trained paralegals, human rights monitors, and volunteers, and has provided capacity building to civil society organizations. It has organized human rights campaigns on specific issues (such as environmental justice), and LHRC is running an ongoing campaign against the death penalty.

Kimara Peer Educators & Health Promoters Trust Fund Phirial Kiwia is Director

The Kimara Peer Educators and Health Promoters Trust Fund was established in 1992 in response to the problems of HIV/AIDS. The organization is community based; located in the low-income periphery of north-west Dar es Salaam.

The project addresses HIV-related stigma and discrimination as a major barrier to effective HIV-programming, as they relate to seeking preventive education, services, care, support or treatment. They give people confidence to start new lives. Here are two stories from Grandmothers, who were interviewed by Director Phirial Kiwia:

Christina Demringi, 60



PK How do you know about the Kimara Peer Educators?

CD Mama Kiwia is living next to me, she told me about the program and brought me into (it).

PK Since when you are in the program?

CD Since four years.

PK For what you are using the money of the credit?

CD With the money I bought a little shop, so now I can sell Mandazi (doughnuts) and Vitumbua (rice cakes). Furthermore, I bought a cow and sell the milk. Through the shop and the money of the milk, I earn enough money to pay for food, water, electricity and school fees for my five grandchildren!

Flora Kawa 40



PK How do you know about the Kimara Peer Educators?

FK Through a neighbor who also join the group.

PK Since when you are in the program?

FK Since four and a half year.

PK For what you are using the money of the credit?

FK In the beginning I had chicken and ducks, I sold the eggs or the animals on the market. Now I also produce soap.

PK What changed since you are a member of the group?

FK My life is better now! I earn my own money and now I'm independent of donation. I can (take) care of me and my 3 grandchildren, send them to school

Maasai Women Development Organization (MWEDO)

Tanzania has a total population of about 43,600,000 people. The majority of the population lives in rural and semi-urban areas as small-scale farmers and pastoralists. There are over two million pastoralists and most are from the Maasai ethnic group.

Maasai have historically been known as pastoralists who travel seasonally to seek grazing for their cattle. They live mostly in the North-Central area of Tanzania, within the Arusha and Manyara regions.

MWEDO was started by three Maasai women founders, Ndinini Kimesera Sikar, Maria Kaheta and Josephine Gabriel Simon. Through experiences of their own struggles, the three founders decided to support other marginalized women to access their rights to education, health and economical rights. MWEDO empowers Maasai women through access to education, women's economic empowerment and maternal health and HIV/AIDS education. It has over 5,000 grassroots members.



Umoja wa Mapambano Dhidi Ya Ukimwi (United Fight Against AIDS)

UNAIDS Executive Director Winnie Byanyima announced the organisation's message to the world via video, beginning by explaining how the HIV and AIDS problem has affected everyone, including her own family and even the United Nations family and so they have generally learned the lesson that the fight against AIDS is inseparable from the struggle for women's rights and the fight against all other forms of discrimination. ***"AIDS can be eradicated, but it can be eradicated only if we fight the social and economic inequalities that perpetuate the disease and if we stimulate innovation, to address the real needs of women and girls and people living with HIV."*** Elaborating on the magnitude of the AIDS epidemic and discrimination against women and girls, Ms. Byanyima explained that AIDS remains the leading cause of death among women aged 15 to 49 and then advised, ***"to eradicate AIDS by 2030, we need to end violence against women and ensure that women and girls have equal access to education, health and employment."***



Winnie Byanyima speaking to the UN Economic Empowerment Summit (translated from Swahili)

Zanzibar Association of People Living With HIV/AIDS *E.D. Mr. Seif Abdulla*

The website says (in Swahili), “ZAPHA+ seeks to improve the living conditions of PLHIV through advocacy for the provision of quality services. We will campaign for the rights of PLHIV to live free of stigma and discrimination.”

ZAPHA has projects focusing on care and treatment, impact mitigation, advocacy and income generating.

They also have an online discussion forum to share information and dispel myths.



Tanzania League of the Blind - Uyui Branch *Stephen Pius Nyandwi Chair person*

An announcement in their own words, direct from their website of, “An HIV/AIDS project, which is funded by the Stephen Lewis Foundation (SLF) from Canada with the sum amount of TZS 25,890,000.00. This project plans to reach 120 people who are blinds and visually impaired in Uyui district.

Visually impaired people from Uyui have congratulated the *Gender Integration in HIV/AIDS Information for Blinds and Visually Impaired Persons in Tabora Project* for its contribution on bringing back the tide of HIV/AIDS to the blind people.

They adding that for many years HIV/AIDS activities and other development in the country have been disseminating information on the pandemic in a way which is not use friendly for the most blind people to access such information; the thing which left them behind in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Following the HIV/AIDS messages made on Braille materials and distributed in 6 districts of Tabora region, people with visual impairment and their families they now accessing information on HIV/AIDS easily than before, the situation which came to enable them to understand their role to play on the fight against AIDS. We thank the project for providing us deeply HIV/AIDS information through brochures made on Braille materials, whereby a blind person can read and understand the message than before.” *(I left the text exactly as it was)*



“Most people depended only on hearing through radio and TV listening and sometimes on formal and informal conversation” says Lusasa Iddi, a resident from Mahaward.