

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM

AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM COMMEMORATION SYMPOSIUM

**“REFLECTION ON FINANCING FOR NATIONAL PLAN OF
ACTION TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST
WOMEN AND CHILDREN
(NPA – VAWC)”**

Achievements, Challenges, Way forward

Latest estimates show that nearly 1 in 3 women in the world aged 15 and older have been subjected to physical or sexual violence at least once in their lifetime, and 2019 data shows that at least 200 million girls and women have undergone female genital mutilation (FGM, mostly performed on girls under five years old), Thus indicating that levels of Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC) have remained largely unchanged over the last decade, which still poses a threat on safety and security of women and girls. The Plan of Action to End Violence Against Women and Children (NPA-VAWC 2017/18 – 2021/22) is the Comprehensive National Plan of Actions to eradicate violence against women and children in the country. The plan's estimated overall cost is 267.4 billion TZS over five years, which was expected to be financed by the government with contribution from private sector, international organizations, and development partners, and to reduce VAWC at 50% by 2022.

As the NPA -VAWC is ending next year, representatives from various development partners, civil society organizations and stakeholders of the gender and women empowerment movement met recently in Dar es Salaam at a conference organized by the Tanzania Gender Networking (TGNP), to commemorate 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence with a reflection session and panel discussion on the financing of the NPA-VAWC and GEWE issues in Tanzania.

The discussion focused on highlighting the successes, gaps and lessons accrued from the NPA-VAWC's implementations so far, and raising collective recommendations which can be used during the plan's upcoming national evaluation in 2022.

Providing the context of the event and the financing of NPA-VAWC interventions so far, TGNP's Executive Director, Lilian Liundi highlighted the following;

“This year the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence is based on the National slogan - “Ewe Mwananchi: Komesha Ukatili wa Kijinsia SASA” and the international slogan, - “Orange the World: End Violence Against Women NOW!”. In furtherance of the debate on these slogans, TGNP is focused on evaluating the allocation of financial resources for the

implementation of the National Action Plan for the Elimination of Violence against Women and Children (MTAKUWWA). During the year 2020/21, a total of 2,648,422,818.00 shillings was allocated, whereby 1,240,440,885 shillings has been disbursed for implementation in various institutions. Similarly, through the TASAF program a total of 107,916,895,450 shillings was spent.” Said Liundi.



“These resources have helped in the increase in hand-to-hand interventions to facilitate provision of services to victims of sexual violence, with centers established in Amana, Mwananyamala, Tumbi, Iringa, Tabora Kitete, Sekou Toure, Mbeya FFU, Simiyu, Shinyanga, Kahama, Hai, Mount Meru and Nindo. A total of six safe houses are registered in Arusha (comfort), Kigoma (All Same), Mara (Hope for Girls & Women in Tanzania and ACT Mara), Kilimanjaro (Network Against Female Genital Mutilation) and Manyara (Masai Girls Rescue Center). Also, a total of 420 Gender desks have been set up at police stations in various parts of the country. I would like to acknowledge and commend the efforts of our government that contribute to the protection of girls and women against all forms of sexual violence.” She added.

Speaking during the event, development partners’ representatives shared their solidarity remarks and commitments on ending Gender-based Violence Against Women and Children. The Head of Cooperation from Global Affairs Canada (GAC) - Hellen Fytche highlighted on their commitment in advancing gender equality, the magnitude of VAWC in Tanzania and sub-Saharan Africa, and also proposed a comprehensive approach for sustainable

change by stating that; “Canada Strongly believes that advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls is both the right thing to do and the most effective way to reduce poverty and inequality, and build a more peaceful, inclusive and prosperous world. For every day that gender-based violence continues more girls will be married when they are just children. In Tanzania which has one of the highest rates of child marriages in the world, this means that almost 2 out of 5 girls will continue to be married before their 18th birthday. Intimate partner violence is also widespread in Sub-Saharan Africa which has a prevalence rate of 36%, higher than the global rate of 30%.”



“Addressing gender-based violence requires a comprehensive approach focused not only on supporting survivors and bringing perpetrators to justice, but also healthcare, education, social protection and economic development. Canada’s Feminist International Assistance Policy places gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls at the center of international assistance, such as supporting access to the full range of sexual and reproductive health services, supporting girls’ access to quality and safe education, providing financial services to women and equally important engaging men in changing behaviors and becoming champions of equality.” Added Fytche.

Building on the same, the Programme Manager from the Embassy of Swedish in Tanzania (Sida) - Naseku Kisambu added that “Our current bilateral strategy has 4 result areas including Education, Inclusive Economic Devel-

opment, Environment as well as Human Rights, Democracy, the Rule of Law and Gender Equality. We are committed to taking an intersectoral and rights based perspective in addressing discriminatory socio norms, legislations, measures and behaviors. And we are happy that TGNP is one of the organizations that leads Transformative Feminism in the country which challenges patriarchy and recognizes the intersectionality of gender and other exclusionary social relations. We are aware of the increasing incidence of VAWC and are of the same view that COVID 19 has sharply worsened the situation, we are eager to learn the success factors, learnings and best practices from our ending NPA-VAWC, which will inform what we need to do differently to address VAWC”.



“We all need each other to address this agenda! We need good laws and policies, we need prevention strategies and norms, we need adequate financing, we need accessible and available services, we need data and accountability and we need education among other things.” Said Kisambu. The Deputy Representative from United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) - Dr. Wilfred Ochan and the Representative from Foundation for Civil Society (FCS) - Josephine Ndungumaro

“This year’s global theme **“Orange the World: End Violence Against Women now!”** Reminds us all that, women in Tanzania and around the world continue to be subjected to GBV and harmful practices, that stands in the way of their voices, choices, consent and of their equality. Today we as partners come together to recommit to working together and doing more and

doing better, including working with persons with disabilities, to deliver on our vision of a future where all women and girls can be in peace, freedom and equality by leaving no one behind, and delivering on a more inclusive world that we have collectively promised. We are proud of our partnership with TGNP and the work we're doing together through the knowledge centers and community dialogues that are empowering rural women and girls and helping to deal with social and traditional norm determinants which help to perpetrate GBV. As we move forward, I would like to reinforce UNFPA's commitment to Tanzania is supporting the realization of NPA –VAWC.” Said Ochan.

“Gender issues are at the heart of the larger issue that FCS has highlighted and TGNP is a strategic partner in the implementation of anti-gender violence projects within FCS. FCS is also focused on contributing positively to the implementation of the NPA - VAWC, where we have focused on mobilizing ministries and their sectors in allocating sufficient resources to ensure this program bears fruit. which takes place through the TGNP as a cluster leader. FCS has also grown to work with 20 to 30 stakeholders each year to ensure that women and children enjoy life and achieve their goals without feeling inferior. We congratulate TGNP for its interventions and achievements so far and look forward to more engagements with TGNP in collaboration with the government” Said Ndungumaro.

In the opening remarks the guest of honor Hon. Prof. Kitila Mkumbo, Member of Parliament (Ubungo) and Minister of Industry and Trade, officiated the event by congratulating TGNP for its work over the years by saying “TGNP is a very important institution in our country and makes a significant contribution to many important areas, especially in building awareness on gender issues. When we started TGNP back then, many people did not even understand the difference between sex and gender. It is TGNP who led to many universities, including the University of Dar es Salaam to mainstream gender in our curriculum, the establishment of the Gender Center at UDSM and the launching of a nationwide campaign for gender equality and advocacy against gender-based violence. Among many other reasons I am also very proud of TGNP for their accountability and ethical work, which is proven by how they have managed to secure and maintained their

long-time renowned partners, whom I would hereby like to thank for their continued support to TGNP over the years.”



He also proceeded to elaborate the biological and psychological strength and potential of women and why the notion as he stated that “Gender equality among women and men is something I emphasize because as a psychologist I understand the potential that women have in every aspect. Starting with reproduction, women produce only one egg while men must produce many seeds among which the female seeds last longer than the male seeds. Research also shows that female child pregnancies are more likely to reach a full term compared to male child pregnancies, and also girls are more likely to survive in the first five years than boys, which is why infant mortality rates are higher for boys than girls. Beyond the five years it is also psychologically known that girls acquire mental maturity earlier than their male age mates, whereby on average a 15-year-old girl’s maturity can be compared to that of a 20-year-old boy. Further more women also have a longer lifespan compared to men so women are naturally stronger than men. Also, countries that have more gender equality rates are doing very well economically, social and political. That is why I wonder where the notion that “women are weaker than men” comes from.”

In his conclusive remarks during the opening speech, the guest of honor Hon. Prof. Kitila Mkumbo also emphasized on women’s economic contribution from family level to community and national level at large, while calling for an inclusive economy where women and girls are more equally involved.

“Dignity, respect, rights and freedom are four of the core things that make us human thus anything that affects these for core things is not to be ignored, that’s why the fight against GBV is so relevant because GBV deprives human beings of their dignity, respect, rights and freedom and this affects the country financially as well. Women have proven to be better entrepreneurs, in Tanzania 60% of small to medium enterprises are operated by women and employ a lot of people most of them being women as well. Also most businesses collapse after 2 – 3 years but most of those that survive beyond this period are those owned by women. Studies also show that 90% of women’s business gains are allocated to family needs while for men it’s below 50%. Therefore we should push for inclusive development where women and girls are not left behind in economic opportunities like education, entrepreneurial capacity building and access to loans and business markets, because like the saying goes “to empower a woman is to empower the community at large”. Said Kitila.

The guest of honor also expressed his commitment to initiate effective implementation of one of the key recommendations aiming at improving the working environment for mothers in local markets, enabling them to work as they tend to their young children and keep them safe. “Among all the good recommendations that I have recorded today, the idea of building nursing rooms for mothers in local markets is brilliant and doable, because if we can build store rooms and washrooms we can definitely build a nursing room or two as well. In collaboration with TGNP and our partners, I will ensure effective planning and implementation of this idea, starting with a pilot at Mabibo Ward in Ubungu.” He added.

During the panel discussion the key speakers shared their experience with the NPA –VAWC implementations through their respective public sector institutions and civil society organisations, whereby the representative from TGNP spoke of the effectiveness of Gender Responsive Budgeting, a representative from Msichana Initiative who spoke on the laws and policies influencing advocacy and initiative against VAWC in the country, Children and menstrual hygiene management specialist as well as representatives from the police gender desk who also shared their on-site experience in working with VAWC victims.



After the panel discussions participants also shared their experiences in a general discussion that raised several achievements, challenges, lessons and recommendations. Among the key issues raised, the participants outlined key recommendations for phase two of the NPA – VAWC to be considered during the upcoming national review, and also agreed on way forward actions for the remaining six months such as the following;

Key Achievements:

In the area of education, support for families and relationships, action has been taken by the government in collaboration with stakeholders where the government in collaboration with stakeholders has established a total of 3,963 positive parenting networks in communities in various regions in the country compared to 2019/2020 where 2,777 networks were established. These networks are used to conduct collective bargaining discussions aimed at eliminating sexual violence.

Also, the government has so far established 18,186 Women and Children Protection Committees, 30 centers for the provision of educational services to young children in the regions of Dar es Salaam (Temeke 5 and Kigamboni 5) and Dodoma (Bahi 5, Kongwa 5, Chamwino 5, and Kondoa 5). As a result of this service, a total of 774,816 children (375,809 male and

399,007 female) have been registered to access the service as of June 2021 compared to 159,479 children (82,539 male and 76,940 female) who were registered before the end of 2019/20. (Government report on the implementation of NPA -VAWC-202).

In eradicating oppressive traditions, the government in collaboration with development partners developed effective reporting systems for sexual violence, especially child abuse which has led to the increased number of reported incidents through 116. As of February 2021, a total of 1,079,891 calls were received and processed, whereby approximately 5,228 victims were provided with safe housing, legal services and counseling, compared to only 3,044 victims who received such services in 2019/2020.

Issues Raised:

- i. At each level of NPA implementation, there was supposed to have been committed persons for Monitoring and Evaluation, however Data of NPA implementation status is still not harmonized, hence leading to failure to use them for advocacy and decision making.
- ii. The linkage and coordination of different actors implementing NPA is great challenge, this area need to be improved among the ministries so as to be able to coordinate partners and other key actors.
- iii. Law reform to accomplish NPA -VAWC is highly and urgent needed to address the barriers set, existing of contradicting Laws and policies that delay and create more challenges in the NPA implementations.
- iv. Existence of discriminatory laws against women and children hinders and delays the results of NPA implementations, including customary laws of inheritance which deny a woman and a girl to inherit properties, and Medical Practitioner Act which prescribes that police form number 3 must be filled by a registered medical doctor, causing a lot of action delays especially in remote areas.
- v. Lack of adequate funding for financial and material resources such as private offices, vehicles and capacity building for police gender desks

officers causes lack of the required quality and free services to GBV survivors, which continues to hinder disclosure and reporting of GBV cases and punishment to perpetrators.

vi. The community is not effectively aware of NPA, especially at village level where different forms of VAWC are still relatively high, because communities continue embracing harmful cultural practices entrenched with Economic disadvantages among community members.

vii. The reentry program was originally established for all young girls that were deprived the opportunity for formal education due to various factors including financial and social challenges as well as GBV incidences, however more emphasis has been placed only on impregnated girls and therefore a huge group of targeted beneficiaries of this program are left out, such as disabled girls and victims of different forms of GBV that suffered effects other than pregnancies.

Agreed Recommendations and Way Forward:

i. Because limited engagement of men in NPA-VAWC implementations has proven to be a continued hindrance in the timely realization of NPA-VAWC goals, moving forward, public institutions and all implementing partners must ensure strategic involvement of men and boys for effective behavioral and cultural transformation to eradicate patriarchal perpetrators of VAWC.

ii. Implementing partners and government institutions must invest more on research and publication of best practices from NPA-VAWC implementations, by mapping and documenting all respective interventions to inform data driven advocacy and decision making to steer up desired results.

iii. The absence of a specific plan on resources mobilization for implementing NPA –VAWC has a profound impact on realizing its goals. Therefore, there is the need for enabling sustainable mechanisms for resources mobilization

iv. Gender Responsive Budgeting should be applied within the budgets

from ministries, regions and local government authorities, and they also need to observe the budgeting guideline that directs for allocations of funds for NPA-VAWC implementation.

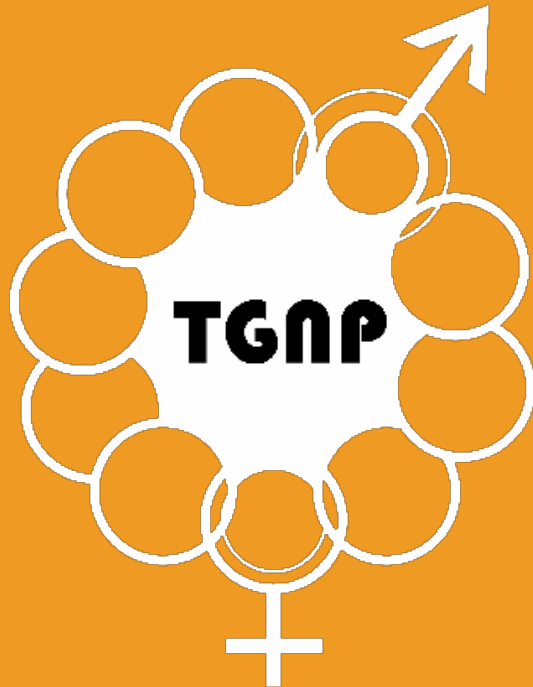
v. The government's efforts in creating an enabling environment for business have accelerated the increasing number of small and medium enterprises owned by women, to ensure safety of young children within small business working areas like local markets, nursing rooms must be built where mothers can get required clean and private space to cater to their young children.

vi. Technology plays a crucial role in implementing NPA-VAWC, and it reduces operating costs, therefore earning from other countries and institutions and with an electronic system for collecting information will help to build a robust NPA-VAWC system

vii. Stakeholders need to be updated on the progress made in implementing NPA-VAWC through different popular materials like leaflets, brochures, etc.

viii. Enactment of a domestic violence act and specific family issues court, so that they can fast track VAWC cases such as those around GBV, inheritance deprivation, child support and custody etc.

ix. The government should establish the "Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection" because the current Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children (MoHCDEC) is too broad, and mostly health issues are more priorities over gender issues and receive a larger percentage of the allocated budget.



TGNP

P.O Box 8921, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Ubungo Industrial Areas | Mabibo Road

Tel: +255 754 784 050

Email: info@tgnp.or.tz

Website: www.tgnp.or.tz



@tgnptz



@tgnptz



@tgnptz |