



# CHILDREN'S DIGNITY FORUM (CDF)

ANNUAL REPORT 2013

Lennyster Byalugaba

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## LIST OF ACRONYMS

CDF	Children’s Dignity Forum
CSO’s	Civil Society Organizations
EAGT	Evangelistic Assemblies of God Tanzania
ESRF	Economic and Social Research Foundation
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
FORWARD	Foundation for Women’s Health Research and Development
LHRC	Legal and Human Right Centre
NGO’s	Non -Governmental Organizations
RPC	Regional Police Commander
SACHITA	Save Children of Tanzania
TECMN	Tanzania Ending Child Marriage Network
UNFPA	United Nation Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund

## **Introduction**

### **About Us**

CDF is a non-profit organization that works to promote and reinforce the rights of vulnerable children, particularly girls, by placing children's legal and human rights on the public agenda, creating working forums to empower children, families and society in general and developing the capacity and skills to address harmful traditional practices. CDF focuses on child rights protection - mainly FGM, child marriage and child pregnancy.

**Our values are:** Gender Equality, Partnership, Participation and Voice of the Children

Children's Dignity Forum (CDF) 2013 annual report covers activities done from January - December 2013. The report describes the activity progress, outputs, challenges encountered during the activities implementation, lesson learned and recommendations. In 2013 CDF has continued to promote, respect and observe children's rights and in doing so it has managed to strengthen its campaign against child marriage, child pregnancies, FGM and advocate for children's rights in Tanzania.

### **What We Do**

We work with local and international partners in eradicating Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), child pregnancies and Child Marriage as well as advocating for child protection and participation in Dar Es Salaam, Coastal, Mwanza, Mbeya, Iringa, Njombe and Mara regions in Tanzania. We strengthen the rights and protection of children, particularly girls affected by FGM and child marriage, and those at risk of FGM and child marriage.

### **How We Do It**

We conduct capacity building and empowerment trainings, policy advocacy, use media communication, as well as mobilize resources, research, documentation and publication and provide service provisions to the girls clubs and networks.

### **Where We Do It**

We work all over Tanzania with specific projects in Dar Es Salaam, Coastal, Mwanza, Mara, Mbeya, Iringa and Njombe regions. We work with the central & local government authorities, civil society's organizations, community, religious and traditional leaders in creating a just, sustainable development for child mothers, child widows, and girls at risk of FGM and child marriage in Tanzania

## **1.0 Research, Publications & Documentations**

**1.1 Production of Advocacy Materials:** CDF managed to produce the advocacy materials with different messages on child marriage, child pregnancies and FGM. The materials were very useful since they had contact address on where to report just in case there were any violations of girl's rights and gave direction to the girls who were escaping FGM. A total of 1502 materials were produced: (1) 500 t-shirts, (2) 500 brochures, (3) 500 posters and (4) 2 banners

## **2.0 Capacity Building & Outreach**

The outreach section addressed four major outcomes:

- (i) 150 vulnerable girls and young women at risk of, or affected by child marriage, GBV and early motherhood in Tarime, Musoma and Rorya Districts have increased financial independence
- (ii) 1,500 girls and young women at risk of, or affected by child marriage and early motherhood in Tarime, Musoma and Rorya Districts have increased ability and confidence to access support services and related entitlements
- (iii) Girls and young women (10-25 years ) experience an increase in protection of their rights in relation to gender based violence (GBV), female genital mutilation (FGM) and child marriage in the project areas.
- (iv) Strengthening girls' networks and clubs in response to female genital mutilation (FGM), child marriage and HIV prevention strategies in Mara region.

### **2.1 Girls Empowerment**

**2.1.1 Girls Camp in Mara:** Under girl's camp, Children's Dignity Forum (CDF) was able to conduct four days girl's camp to 41 girls from Tarime, Musoma and Rorya Districts. The objective was to equip girls on Early Childhood Education, Entrepreneurship skills and income generating activities, Paralegal skills, Sexual and Reproductive Health, Laws and Policies on Girls rights, Legal aid and support, Early Childhood Development, Child Mothers and Education and Life Skills. The key outcome was to see girls are empowered and increased knowledge and understanding of their life.



- 2.1.2 **Key Achievements:** Formation of girl's networks & clubs: A total of 92 girls from networks and clubs in Tarime, Rorya, and Musoma engaged in income generating activities after the girl's cam. The income of the girls ranged between 10,000-75,000 TZS, while they did not have any income before the project.
- 10 girls formed Tunaweza Girls Network and engaged in tailoring, selling of groceries and porridge business
  - 12 girls formed Rorya Girls Club engaged in poultry farming
  - 8 girls formed Tuamke girl's Network and engaged in poultry farming
  - 27 girls formed the Sister to Sister club in Musoma and engaged in gardening and tailoring
  - 11 girls in Kukirango area near Musoma forming the Girl to Girl Secondary Club
  - 3 girls formed the Shirati Jitegemee club and engaged in poultry farming
  - 16 girls formed Umoja Network engaged in tailoring, cafeteria and seeling groceries
  - 2 girls formed the Upendo Girls Club and engaged in cafeteria and maize farming
  - 3 girls formed Tuamke girls Club and engaged in poultry

2.1.3 **Increased knowledge on life skills, confidence, child health, nutrition and sexual reproductive health:** 302 girls and young women risk and affected by child marriage and early motherhood in Tarime, Musoma and Rorya were trained on confidence building, decision making skills, child health, nutrition and development, SRHR, life skills and using camera in campaigns and as a source income generating. After receiving the trainings, the girls were able to go in their localities and train their fellow peers on the same and results achieved were (1) 108 girls have been able to access sexual and reproductive health services, (2) 116 girls have increased their decision making ability and confidence, and (3) 78 have been able to access legal services

2.1.4 **Achievements:**

- 12 girls were self-independent from their family support
- 2 girls capital had increased as 1 girl was able to pay for her school fees
- 35 girls who had no income or means of support before, were now able to generate income independently from their families
- Three girls' networks (Tunaweza, Umoja and Tuamke) & nine girls clubs continued to strengthen their business ventures and earning ability with the aim of becoming economically independent

2.1.5 **Challenges faced:** Despite some key achievements, some major challenges that the girls faced in their networks and clubs were the poor record keeping, costing & pricing, stock control, group management and saving culture, capital to scale up their income generating activities as well as markets of the produced goods.

## 2.2 **Child Participation**

The involvement of children in decision making and in matters that affect them is a growing realization in Tanzania following the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in 1991. In response to its commitments to the human rights of children that came with ratification of the CRC in 1996 the Government of Tanzania developed a Child Development Policy that was later reviewed and revised in 2008. This policy provides for the rights of children to survival, development, protection and participation. Further to this, in 2002 the Government realized the need to involve children in decision making and matters that affect them in a more consistent and meaningful way after the involvement of children in the UN Special Session on Children (UNGASS)

and therefore suggested the creation of a permanent representative body of children in Tanzania. Through the initiation of NGOs, in consultation with the children who participated in the Special Session, the Junior Council structure was created. Since its creation, it has developed into the Junior Council of the United Republic of Tanzania (JCURT), also known as Baraza la Watoto under the leadership of the Ministry of Community Development, Gender and Children (MCDGC). The expectations are for each and every ward, district and region in Tanzania to have children councils.

#### 2.2.1 Achievements:

- **We managed to integrate child participation as part of the Baseline Assessment in Mbeya, Iringa and Njombe Regions:** During 2013 CDF conducted different consultations meetings with children for the purpose of identifying priority bottlenecks in access and use of key social services and feed the findings into the district plans. Through this, children were able to identify priority bottlenecks in access and use of key social services.
- **CDF facilitated ToT orientation workshop on National Child Participation Toolkit to members of the Children's Agenda:** CDF conducted a ToT to a total of 30 CA members on the National Child Participation Toolkit and the objective of this activity was to familiarize the members with the Toolkit on how to apply it in their daily work and advocate for more usage of the toolkit for the promotion of child participation in various setting i.e. in schools, councils and communities and develop an action plan for the workshop participants on how they would train other CA members on utilizing the National Child Participation Toolkit.
- Increased understanding of the National Child Participation Initiative, i.e. National Child Participation Strategy, National Child Participation Guideline, National Child Participation Code of Conduct and National Guidelines on formation of Children's Councils among CA members.
- Increased awareness of opportunities and challenges in improving child participation

- Increased advocacy for more investment in child participation to facilitate the inclusion of children's issues in policies and decision-making structures in Tanzania
- Action plan developed with indicators and timeline on how participants will train other CA members and their partners on utilizing the National Child Participation Toolkit.

## 2.3 Girls Protection

All children need to be protected from violence abuse and all forms of exploitations despite their sex orientation. CDF enhanced protection of girls through individual support to girls, girls' collective action and strengthening links and engagement with local officials and agencies to maximize protection. The main outcome for this activity was to make sure that girls are more experiencing protection of their lives. In supporting the protection of girls, CDF established collaboration with Masanga Centre, a Catholic Church initiative that provides shelter for girls during the FGM season to help girls fleeing from FGM and worked with several stakeholders including the girls themselves to design strategies that will help and improve girl's protection systems.

### 2.3.1 Aims:

- 40 project stakeholders (girl's representatives, network representatives, Influential leaders, decision makers, traditional leaders, religious leaders, government officials, community development officers, social welfare officers, ward executive officers, district medical officers, teachers, education officers, police and magistrates) met and discussed the mechanism that would protect girls against FGM and Child Marriage. The workshop resulted to the better support of the girls and young women who escaped FGM, GBV and Forced Marriages in the government structures such as in schools, hospitals, police etc. Moreover, all stakeholders came together with a call for more and better protection of the girl's rights as well as the reporting mechanisms since all participants were the focal people.
- 2 successful project advisory board with 15 participants each were convened. The advisory board successful facilitated and supported the establishment of the Child Protection Team in the project area, gave concrete advice on how to work with traditional leaders and assisted girls who escaped the female genital mutilation season.

- Supported Masanga Centre on community mobilization and assisted girls escaping from FGM. CDF supported 350 girls at Masanga Centre through the provision of food, clothing and psychosocial services; and also played a role of unifying the girls with their families after FGM season.
- 24 traditional leaders, 20 parents and 15 local government leaders were consulted on ending GBV, FGM and Child Marriage in Tarime District. The consultations strengthening the partnership between the three groups and unfold the challenges of ending FGM in Tarime District.
- 39 Tarime Traditional leaders from 13 Kurya clans went on a learning trip to Mwanza. The learning trip assisted the traditional leaders to think of the alternative rites of passage as well as alternative income instead of FGM.
- Girls clubs and networks sensitized 90 families on FGM during the international FGM zero tolerance day in Tarime, Rorya and Musoma. 90 families were sensitized to say no against FGM and Child Marriage and given alternatives and measures to take in case there was any forceful marriage or FGM act.
- 15 members Child Protection Team were established and launched in Tarime comprising police, social welfare, community development officers, education officers, traditional leaders, religious leaders, medical doctors, legal officers; prison officers ward executive officers and magistrates.

### 2.3.2 **Achievements:**

- Increased knowledge, understanding and changing of the attitudes towards FGM, GBV and Child Marriages. The traditional leaders saved girls against forceful FGM and also parents willingly registered their daughters for the alternative rites of passage in Masanga centre
- 400+ girls escaped FGM and seek for the shelter and support during the FGM season
- Establishment and launching of the child protection team and the active project advisory board in the district.

- Increased support from key stakeholders for example local government authorities, traditional leaders, gender police desks, religious leaders and other community members which improved the cooperation among the stakeholder.
- Increased case reporting on violations of girls' rights which increased the protection of the girl's rights

## 2.4 Girls Trainings

**2.4.1 Capacity Building Trainings:** CDF succeed to conduct different trainings at different levels to 60 girls. The organization trained the girls on issues related to HIV/AIDS, FGM and Child Marriage. In achieving this, a total of 2,060 EIC materials were produced to raise more awareness and advocacy on HIV/AIDS, FGM and Child Marriage.



**2.4.2 Community based health education trainings:** CDF conducted five community based health education trainings to the community on HIV/AIDS, child marriage and Female genital mutilation from 5<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> August 2013. The trainings were done by the 60 trained girls who received the trainings on HIV/AIDS, child marriage and Female genital mutilation. The trained girls went to train in different areas some went in schools and other went in streets (around the market place and areas where people were gathered). More than 1400 people participated and

were trained on HIV/AIDS, child marriage and FGM.

**2.4.2.1 Achievements:** The trainings were successful as a result there was increased knowledge and understanding among the girls and community members on HIV/AIDS, child marriage and Female genital mutilation

**2.5 Sensitization Workshops:** A one day Sensitization Workshop for teachers and parents on children rights, sexual and reproductive health rights and HIV issues among young people was conducted. Twenty (20) participants (parents, teachers, traditional leaders, excisors and police) attended and were trained on child rights, SRH rights, FGM and HIV prevention among young people of the three districts of Mara region.

**2.5.1 Achievements:**

- Awareness raised for the trained girls and they managed to conduct the community health education trainings in different areas. Also for those who received the trainings some of them became aware of their rights as well as on issues relating to sexual and reproductive health and they promised to spread the knowledge to other people in the community.
- Teachers, parents, traditional leaders and police were sensitized on the importance of knowing things that affect youth SRHR, human rights and HIV prevention to youth. This was done purposely in order to gain support in advocating for girls SRH and rights in Mara region.
- Awareness raising materials were developed and distributed
- Girls raised their awareness of their rights and seek assistance and demonstrate this by conducting campaigns which led to filling forms for the alternative rites of passage instead of FGM, decreased reported number of girls undergoing FGM after the FGM season, decreased reported number of girls forced into marriage after the FGM season, girls reported refusing to be subjected to domestic violence by their partners after receiving education from girls clubs and network and decreased reported cases on GBV to the police gender desk.

**2.6 Consultation Workshops**

**2.6.1 'Cities and Children' Post Consultation and Dissemination Sessions:** CDF in collaboration with KIWOHEDE conducted Cities and Children Post-Consultations and dissemination

sessions with LGA's officials, CSO's and Children in Mwanza City , Mbeya City and Dar es Salaam City (Kinondoni and Ilala) in 12 wards of Mwanza City, 34 wards of Kinondoni District, 24 wards of Ilala District and 36 wards of Mbeya City. The objective of the post-consultations and dissemination was to raise awareness with key stakeholders on the key issues affecting children as a result of urbanization and trends, and advocate for the increase of investment on child-friendly cities.

#### **2.6.1.1 Achievements:**

- 'Cities & Children' report's findings shared with key stakeholders, including children
- Increased understanding of the urbanization trends and its impact on children
- Increased awareness of the situation, challenges and opportunities facing children in Tanzania major cities.
- Action plan developed based on the recommendations from the main report, the initial consultations and the post-consultations' outcomes.

**2.6.2 Post-2015 Development Agenda on What Future Do You Want? For Children, Young Girls and Women:** CDF managed to conduct a consultation workshop that aimed at stimulating dialogue and ideas on the Post- 2015 development agenda by providing a framework for contributing ideas and views towards building a shared global vision on "the Future we Want" by outlining recommendations from governments, civil society and other stakeholders, amplifying the voices of the poor and other marginalized groups in formal negotiation processes and influencing the inter-governmental processes so that they align with the aspirations of civil society players and broader communities for a post 2015 agenda.

#### **2.6.2.1 Achievements:**

- CDF provided a report with critical inputs from young women, children and older people to the next round of global development agendas and built a shared global vision on the *Future We Want*, with clear recommendations for governments, civil society and broad stakeholders.

- Increased awareness of the situation, challenges and opportunities facing children, young women and older people in Tanzania and provide a national influence to the intergovernmental processes so that they align the global development agenda with the aspirations of the national government and those of other actors, e.g. civil society.
- CDF managed to increase focus on children, young women and older people in policies and decision-making structures and provide useful information for adjusting the planning processes and development frameworks at country level.

### 3.0 Men & Boys Engagement

**3.1 Consultation with Influential People:** 24 traditional leaders, 20 parents and 15 local government leaders were consulted on ending GBV, FGM and Child Marriage in Tarime District. The consultations strengthening the partnership between the three groups and unfold the challenges of ending FGM in Tarime District among the groups.



### 4.0 Lobbying & Advocacy

#### 4.1 Campaigns

**4.1.1 Ending FGM, Child Marriage & Teenage Pregnancy:** Conduct four ending FGM, Child Marriage and Teenage pregnancy campaigns by 3 girls networks and 9 girls clubs in Tarime, Rorya and Musoma Districts that attracted 1000+ girls and boys,

traditional leaders, community members, government officials in the three districts.

**4.1.1.1 Achievements:**

- 165 girls reported decrease in number of girls undergoing FGM
- 200 girls filled forms out for their commitment to alternative rites of passage instead of FGM
- 36 domestic violence cases were reported to the Police Gender Desk
- 112 reported decrease in a number of girls forced into marriage
- 41 girls reported refusing to be subjected to domestic violence by their partners
- 11 girls reported decrease in GBV

**4.1.2 Anti-FGM Awareness Campaign:** CDF conducted Anti-FGM campaign in Sirari, Tarime District which attracted 1500+ people, 15 Tarime NGO's participated, traditional leaders, FGM excisors, girls networks and clubs, government officials at all levels, police, religious institutions and community members.

**4.1.2.1 Achievements:**

- Increased number of the community members supporting ant-FGM initiatives including traditional leaders who asked to be given positions in the District Child Protection Team, after the campaign the traditional leader who joined the Child Protection Team saved three girls from the forceful FGM
- Increased number of girls escaped from FGM in Sirari area to Masanga Centre. It was reported 6 girls walked more than 100 kilometers to seek shelter at Masanga Centre and 3 walked 20 kilometers to police station and later to CDF Tarime office.

**4.1.3 International Day for Zero Tolerance:** Girls clubs and networks sensitized 90 families on FGM during the International Day for Zero Tolerance in Tarime, Rorya and Musoma

## 5.0 Networking & Partnership Meeting

Children's Dignity Forum has enhanced organizational capacity and visibility through:

- 5.1 CDF has been recognised as a critical player in shaping the agenda on child marriage, FGM and girls' rights in Tanzania. CDF actively participated in key partnership at national, regional and international level. At regional and International level CDF attended two strategic meeting on ending Child Marriage in Africa in South Africa and Turkey.
- 5.2 Internationally, CDF is a member of Girls Not Brides and the organization has been represented in four International meetings on Child Marriages. Media reporting on child marriage and FGM has increased significantly primarily due to the CDF work between January 2013- December 2013. The coverage has been as follows:
- 82 times in newspapers
  - 102 times in radio programs
  - 35 times in television programs
- 5.3 CDF is hosting the Tanzania Ending Child Marriage Network which has 26 members and has increased the recognition of CDF as critical player in shaping the agenda on child marriage, FGM and girls rights in Tanzania. Through the network, CDF has managed to attract the support from UNFPA and UNICEF to support its work.
- 5.4 CDF has been recognised as a lead child rights organisation in protection and participation and been invited to sit on a number of government and UN advisory committees in particular the Children Agenda which is coordinated by the Ministry of Community Development Gender and Children and the secretariat is UNICEF. CDF is the chairperson of the National Child Participation Task Force and a member of Tanzania technical group in preparation of Tanzania Human Development Report under Planning Commission and United Nations Development Program (UNDP). In between January – December 2013 CDF was invited in 62 sessions with the government officials and UN agencies.
- 5.5 CDF organized the East Africa Child Marriage Conference in collaboration with the Tanzania Ending Child Marriage Network and the Foundation for Women's Health Research and Development (FORWARD), who are leading work on responding to child marriage in Tanzania. The conference was a direct response from Ending Child Marriage Network members and FORWARD project partners in East Africa to learn from other countries in the region on child marriage. Additionally, the conference was pre-empted by the visit in December 2012 to Tanzania by Graça Machel, from the Elders Group who initiated Girls Not Brides: The Global Partnership to End Child Marriage. Mrs Machel held a consultation with members of the Tanzania End Child Marriage Network to explore further how the capacity of the network can be strengthened. The conference received generous support from The Sigrid Rausing Trust, The Graça Machel Trust and UNFPA Tanzania.



The conference was intended to strengthen the campaign and interventions to end child marriage in East Africa. The conference brought together a wide range of stakeholders from different sectors who are working on child marriage, women and girls right and development with the aims of:

- Sharing current interventions and developments at national, regional and global level on child marriage and identify policy and programme lessons and strategies for prevention of child marriages and support for child brides, child mothers and child widows.
- Strengthening skills building, evidence development and capacity of key actors
- Enhancing and galvanizing national and sub-regional advocacy actions
- Strengthening national, regional and global networks and partnerships for ending child marriage.

#### **5.6 Achievements:**

- In 2013, CDF has gained the national recognition throughout the country and outside the country. The collaboration and support from UNFPA and UNICEF has increased and CDF has been able to be engaged at the global level through Girls not Brides a global partnership on child marriage. CDF has signed a memorandum of understanding to collaborate with Graca Machel Trust and UNFPA Tanzania on ending child marriage and FGM in Tanzania.
- CDF brought together a total of 85 people from 12 countries, namely Ethiopia, Ghana, Ireland, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa,

Tanzania, Uganda, United Kingdom and Zambia, attended the East Africa Regional Conference on Child Marriage in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania on 12th and 13th June, 2013. Participants included girls and young women affected by child marriage, the Minister of Chiefs and Traditional Affairs in Zambia and officials from the government of Tanzania, traditional chiefs/leaders, United Nations officials, academics, representatives from Civil Society Organisations, international as well as regional partners.

- The conference created a wonderful information sharing and skills building platform on child marriage current contexts, new programme responses, regional and global level policy developments, and future directions. It also offered opportunity for networking and strengthening collaborations.
- CDF attended and participated in different meetings as part of networking, where the organization managed to disseminate its work to different stakeholders, gained knowledge, experience and collaboration with other human like-minded organizations.

## 6.0 Monitoring & Evaluation

**6.1 Mid-Term Evaluation:** The evaluation covered the two years project implementation period May 2011 to April 2013 and was done by CDF, FORWARD and other partners. It assessed the progress of the project outputs and outcomes as agreed in the project start-up form. Identified challenges, lesson learned and recommendations for the remaining project period and future projects. The evaluation employed different data collection methods and involved service beneficiaries and implementing partners at all stage of the evaluation process. The findings of the evaluation analyzed against five measurements i.e. effectiveness, relevance, efficiency, impact and sustainability.

### 6.1.1 Key Outcomes

- The project has reached 1687 girls and young women through training and advocacy, that is 12% more than the target for the three years project period.
- 90% girls and young women interviewed, reported increase in knowledge and confidence in accessing SRH and other services.
- Established 30 girls clubs and young women networks that is 100% of the target set for the three years project period.
- 95 girls and young women supported to establish IGA. They were running and actively engaged in IGA that is 63% of the 150 target for the three years project period. 77 % of the 73 girls interviewed reported that the IGA is their main source of income. In average

girls and young women were earning 17 GBP (40,000TZS) per month.

- The project reached 5,522 community members through campaigns and advocacy, and trained 504 different stakeholders such as teachers, district officers and traditional leaders.
- Created and distributed 2,051 IEC materials and have used multiple media outlets to raise the profile of girls.
- The two organizations implementing the project enhanced their technical and structural capacity whereby seven staff members have been benefited directly.

## **7.0 Finance & Administration**

### **7.1(a) Securing Funds**

The management continues to strengthen the CDF capacity in monitoring and maintaining records of income and expenditure as well as fundraising for the activities to be implemented. The management monitored and ensured the proper utilization of the project funds as well as maintenance of the proper records of income and expenditure.

### **7.1(b) Fundraising**

The management undertook fundraising initiatives including submission of the proposal to the Sigrid Rousing Trust, Foundation for Civil Society, DFID, European Union, UNFPA, and UNICEF.

#### **7.1.1 Way Forward**

Efforts are underway seeking funds from other potential funders to fund the ending child marriage campaign in Tanzania, as well as other activities CDF is doing to end child marriage and FGM.