

WOMEN'S GLOBAL NETWORK FOR REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS AFRICA:  
Advocating and Campaigning for SRHR in Africa  
**Highlights of the Year 2016**

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31 December 2016

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

*We hereby give an overview of WGNRR - Africa's achievements in 2016. In many ways, 2016 was a year of impressive accomplishments for WGNRR Africa, among them the official registration in Tanzania and the strong and continuous engagement at the grassroots level, supporting our members and partners in Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Nigeria, and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).*



WOMEN'S  
GLOBAL NETWORK  
FOR REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

**W G N R R**  
**AFRICA**

December, 2016

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## WHAT WAS ACHIEVED?

*Important work was undertaken during the year, and below are key highlights:*

### January 2016

With financial support of Urgent Action Funds, WGNRR Africa was present at the 3rd International Congress on Women's Health and Unsafe Abortion (IWAC 2016) where we:

- Facilitated a capacity building session for 44 abortion rights defenders and service providers from 18 countries (among whom 8 African and 8 Asian WGNRR partners) who were capacitated on risks assessment and security strategies and protocols for the promotion of SRHR including the right to access safe and legal abortion.
- Held 2 networking meetings with our African members, partners, allies and stakeholders on “Expanding women’s Access to medical abortion in Africa and on “Strategizing to support the call for solidarity with Women in Sierra Leone”. Participants signed on the call urging the Sierra Leone’s president and members of the parliament to pass the Safe Abortion Act 2015 into law.



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## February 2016

February strengthened WGNRR Africa's presence in the continent by officially establishing offices in Tanzania and increasing visibility in Africa:

- WGNRR Africa was **officially registered as a legal entity in Tanzania**, strengthening thus its close support to members, partners and allies in the region.
- WGNRR Africa was present at the 7th Africa Conference on Sexual Health and Rights (ACSHR) in Accra/Ghana which was an opportunity **to work and network with our constituency from across Africa** (Ghana, Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Zambia, Nigeria, South Africa, Mozambique, Ethiopia and Malawi) to share and learn from each other on strategies and best practices on advancing SRHR in the continent. It was also an opportunity to increase visibility of our work through distribution of our advocacy and campaign materials, and explore new partnership with like-minded organizations.



## March 2016

March witnessed the actual provision of technical support to members and allies advancing SRHR in Africa:

- WGNRR Africa provided ongoing support including an M&E visits to our members and partners Advocating and campaigning for safe and legal abortion in Uganda and



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Kenya to assess and evaluate the impact of their advocacy strategies.

- We were part and supported the Tanzanian Coalition to Address Maternal Mortality and Morbidity due to unsafe Abortion and its Complications (CAMMAC) in **drafting and submitting an advocacy paper to UPR demanding Access to safe and legal abortion in Tanzania.**



### April 2016

- WGNRR Africa supported his Nigerian member (GIWYN) and partner coalition to develop a **policy brief demanding inclusion of safe abortion in Nigerian national health policy.**
- **Strengthened its internal capacity by supporting one of his staff to attend course at Radio Netherlands Training Centre on the “use of social media for behavioral change.** Possibilities for strong partnership in the Africa Great Lakes region were explored between WGNRR Africa and Radio Netherlands Worldwide (RNW).



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May 2016

- We facilitated our first ever online Learning and & Linking webinar on “Managing work related risk” for **15 representatives of our members/partner organizations** that implemented the SAAF funded Abortion advocacy and Campaigning project in Kenya, Uganda, Nigeria and Tanzania.

June 2016

- WGNRR Africa in partnership with Women Link Worldwide (WLW) have conducted a training in Dar-es-salaam to **build capacity of 20 representatives of 10 Tanzanian CSOs working on SRHR on “Strategic communication in abortion advocacy”**.
- We also provided inputs and participated in a cross country study by Pathfinder to analyze strategies and practices in advancing abortion rights in restrictive settings: Case of Tanzania, Kenya, Mozambique and DRC.





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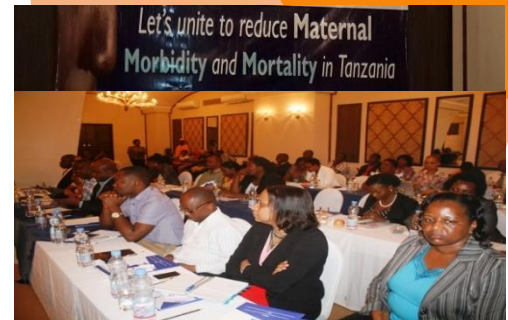
### September 2016

- WGNRR Africa was present at the Africa Regional sensitization workshop on the AU campaign for decriminalizing abortion in Africa. We were part of a networking meeting with regional partners that resulted in **the inception of the first ever Africa Coalition for Safe Abortion (ACSA)**.
- We also mobilized our African constituency to take concrete actions around Sept 28 day of actions for access to safe and legal abortion. 23 concrete events took place at grassroots level in 14 African countries



### October 2016

- WGNRR attended and supported the secretariat of CAMMAC led by Tanzania Women Lawyers Association (TAWLA) to host the first ever national High level abortion advocacy meeting in Tanzania where more than **70 participants (including parliamentarians, Ministry delegates, development partners, CSOs)** discussed the incidence and consequences of unsafe abortion in the country, and together they came up with some concrete strategic actions to address this pandemic in the country.
- We also provided consultancy to our partners and members in the Democratic republic in developing their abortion advocacy strategy.



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Part of this consultancy was the facilitation of a training session on “Human rights based abortion advocacy” for **25 representatives of 13 CSOs and government institutions**; and the conduct of focus group discussions with more than **80 young people in Kinshasa** on SRHR related issues.

- WGNRR provided technical support for ICW West Africa Amplify Change strengthening grant on SRHR advocacy for Women living with HIV. WGNRR Africa’s staff supported capacity building of network members on documentation and advocacy skills. WGNRR Africa will further support ICW on reporting and monitoring and evaluation. WGNRR Africa was able to strengthen the project by linking ICW WA and GIWYN a long time partner and member of WGNRR. Both organizations are now collaborating on SRHR advocacy in Nigeria.

### November 2016

- We supported our partner TAWLA by providing inputs in **developing abortion information materials adapted to the Tanzanian context**; and have been visible in national and regional advocacy spaces by providing inputs in both online and offline advocacy spaces mobilizing activists around safe and legal abortion in Africa.



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## **SOME DEVELOPMENT OBSERVED IN OUR INTERVENTION COUNTRIES**

WGNRR Africa doesn't work in isolation, it always partner with other like-minded organizations/alliances to strengthen our advocacy work. Thanks to the collaboration with others, we have observed the following few changes in the countries we have intervened:

### **1. Uganda:**

- The Alliance of Women to Advocate for Change, a sex workers group, and our partner Uganda Harm Reduction Network have called on the government to legalize safe abortion services. Our partners CEHURD and the Community Health Rights Network (COHERINET) have launched activities for September 28 calling for safe abortion and are building a national coalition to respond to the opposition to law reform.
- COHERINET established the "Listen To Me" clubs in grassroots communities where girls find their voices, get information and are empowered to be champions of their SRHR.

### **2. Tanzania:**

- Women Lawyers Association hosting the secretariat of CAMMAC, has called on health stakeholders, including journalists, to disseminate information on reproductive health rights and unsafe abortion in order to save women's lives in the country, and have organized a two-day training for journalists.
- CAMMAC has submitted an advocacy paper to UPR to hold accountable the Tanzania government for its failure to fulfill its obligations under different human rights treaties, ie the Maputo protocol.

### **3. Kenya & Nigeria:**

- Women's groups, primarily of young women, have set up and are running Safe Abortion Information Hotlines in Kenya and Nigeria where abortion is legally restricted to give women information on safe abortion with medical abortion pills.



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## CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

Being the first year of our official establishment in Africa, 2016 was not without its trials. It was a difficult year for us, with the funding landscape for global SRHR networks becoming more and more challenging, resulting in considerable uncertainty about our survival resulting thus into considerable shortage in terms of staffing and delivery.

Despite these challenges, the WGNRR Africa managed to continue its contributions towards national and regional advocacy processes; creating spaces across the region for advocates to share experiences & strategies to advance SRHR advocacy; increasing our provision of consultancy and technical support to our members, partners and allies. WGNRR Africa could not have achieved so much without the financial and technical support from WGNRR Global. WGNRR Global began the process of regionalization in 2013, but it has taken a number of years to overcome regulatory and legal challenges to achieve the goal of a separate African Organization. WGNRR Global continues to undertake important work amplifying our impact regionally and internationally; working with WGNRR Africa strengthening capacities of local CSOs and creating spaces for African advocates to share experiences & strategies internationally to advance SRHR advocacy; providing consultancy and technical support to other African INGOS in developing advocacy and capacity building strategies. WGNRR Africa has continued to establish independent funding sources by developing exciting new partnerships with Urgent Action Fund, Women Link Worldwide, Radio Netherlands Worldwide, TAWLA and UMATI, providing the organization with a more stable outlook to carry our work forward for 2017 and beyond.

As the global geo-political context threatens to become increasingly regressive, the struggle for realizing SRHR as human rights worldwide will no doubt become even more challenging. However, we at WGNRR Africa stands ready and committed to strengthening our partnerships and consolidating our work on advocacy, campaigning, networking and capacity strengthening, so as to both retain and advance the significant gains in SRHR advocacy in Africa.

We sincerely thank all our friends and allies who have supported us through the last 12 months, and the dedication and tireless efforts of the WGNRR Africa board and staff supported by WGNRR global team to advance SRHR for all.

In solidarity,

Nondo Ebuela Ejano, WGNRR Africa Regional Coordinator