

WOMEN'S GLOBAL NETWORK FOR REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS AFRICA:
Advocating and Campaigning for SRHR in Africa
Highlights of the Year 2017

31 December 2017

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report gives an overview of WGNRR - Africa's achievements in 2017. In general, 2017 was a year of important achievements with key milestones accomplished, among them the relocation of our office from Kigoma to Dar-es-salaam and the continuous engagement at the grassroots, national and regional level, supporting our members and communities, and working closely with partners in Africa to push for the advancement of SRHR for all in Africa, especially in Tanzania, Nigeria and Ghana.



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GLOBAL NETWORK
FOR REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

W G N R R
AFRICA

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WHAT WAS ACHIEVED?

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

January 2017

January started with networking and strategizing with key continental partners on how African leaders and stakeholders can translate commitments on SRHR into concrete actions:

- With support from Ipas Africa, WGNRR Africa WGNRR Africa actively participated in the “Africa Leadership Summit on SRHR in Addis-Ababa” where more than 65 SRHR advocates, government representatives and development partners from Tanzania, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, Cote D'Ivoire, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tunisia, Uganda, Europe and the USA discussed strategies for realizing continental commitments on SRHR in Africa.
- We also facilitated 2 Networking meetings in Abuja and Lagos/Nigeria where we supported members & partners in reviewing and updating their advocacy strategies and workplans, reflecting on successes, challenges & lessons learned so far.



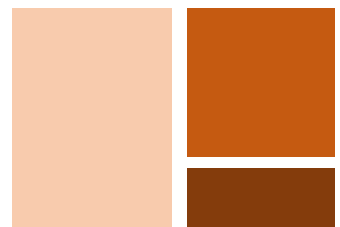
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31 December 2017

February - June 2017

The period between February - June 2018 witnessed the process of consolidating WGNRR presence and increase its visibility in Tanzania by relocating its office from Kigoma to Dar-es-salaam:

- WGNRR Africa has relocated her registered office from plot # 180, block Q, Katubuka street, Airport area, P.O. Box 765 Kigoma block “43”, TRA road, Kijitonyama, P.O. Box 75501 Dar-es-salaam.
- WGNRR Africa has built close relationship with the Local government Authority at the Kijitonyama Ward, especially the Community Development Department and has strengthened relationship with key partner organizations in Dar-es-salaam, such as TAWLA, Pathfinder, UMATI, PSI, and TWCP/Ulingo
- WGNRR has completed the recruitment of its first team of staff and volunteers working closely to deliver activities and working closely with our constituency.



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31 December 2017

July - September 2017

The period of July up to September witnessed the actual provision of technical support to local SRHR partner organisations in Tanzania:

- WGNRR Africa worked hand in hand with its key local partners, namely Tanzania Women Lawyers Association (TAWLA) and other local organisations to develop advocacy tools (policy brief, advocacy videos, etc..) to sensitize policy and decision makers at policy and community level on the situation and causes of maternal deaths and its effects on country economy; and to advocate for the domestication of the Maputo Protocol.
- WGNRR Africa convened a national strategic meeting for 17 CSOs working on SRHR at community and policy level in Tanzania to strategize on repositioning SRHR in the national health agenda.



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Highlights of the Year 2017

31 December 2017

October - November 2017

October and November were the months of capacity strengthening over which most more than 116 representatives of CSOs partners and community women have been capacitated on evidence and rights based advocacy for policy influencing and holistic economic empowerment.

- In Tanzania and Ghana, 72 **community ambassadors and representatives of partner CSOs working in mining communities in Geita region and Western region respectively** were capacitated on **right-based advocacy and holistic economic empowerment**. The trained community women were from 13 villages of 5 wards of Geita DC, Geita TC and Bukombe DC in Tanzania and 17 villages of Tarkwa and Wassa Akropong districts of Ghana.
- We facilitated the **development of community level advocacy strategies and workplans for community women in Tanzania & Ghana**. These strategies are being used by women community ambassadors in Geita/Tanzania and Tarkwa and Wassa Akropong/Ghana to influence policies, norms, attitudes and beliefs toward women economic empowerment
- In Tanzania, we **built capacity of 44 representatives of Tanzanian CSOs working on SRHR in Mwanza, Kigoma, and Dar-es-salaam on evidence and rights-based advocacy for policy influencing**.



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Advocating and Campaigning for SRHR in Africa
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31 December 2017

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As the year started with networking and strategizing activities, it also ended by the same.

- In collaboration with Ipas Africa/Kenya, WGNRR Africa has engaged over 45 human right commissioners and CSOs representatives from Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Ghana, Malawi, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Mozambique and Zambia, on the role human rights institution can play in advancing SRHR in Africa.



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31 December 2017

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. Tanzania:

- SRHR organisations has strengthened their collaboration and broaden alliances with other key stakeholders including state actors, journalists and development partners to strategise and put forward the agenda of maternal death, access to family planning and menstrual health of adolescent girls as national SRHR priority issues. At the community level, significant efforts has been visible in bridging the gap between policy advocacy and community mobilisaion around SRHR issues by involving community groups to be frontline mobilisers for community awareness.



2. Ghana & Nigeria:

- Community women and CSOs working with them have been actively influencing norms, policies and laws regarding women leadership, gender equality in employment, equal access to resources and opportunities, access to contraceptives and other essential reproductive health, especially for marginalized groups such women living with HIV/AIDS and those working and living onn small scale mining industry

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CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

Being the second year of our official establishment in Africa, 2017 was still a difficult year for us. The funding landscape for global SRHR networks becoming more and more challenging, the operationalization of our annual plan faced considerable shortage in terms of delivery although we have been able to moderately increase the number of staff who mostly worked on voluntary basis.

Despite these challenges, the WGNRR Africa managed to relocate its registered office from Kigoma to Dar-es-salaam, registered some improvement in its staffing, and continued its contributions towards national and regional advocacy processes; creating spaces across nationally and cross-nationally for advocates and other key stakeholders to share experiences & strategies to advance SRHR in Africa.

WGNRR Africa could not have achieved so much without the financial and technical support from all our friends, particularly WGNRR Global. Their support has been instrumental for us in achieving the milestones detailed in this report.

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