

**Women's Global Network for  
Reproductive Rights Africa:**  
Advocating and Campaigning for SRHR in Africa

# **2018** **ANNUAL** **REPORT**



**WOMEN'S  
GLOBAL NETWORK  
FOR REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS**

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

# WHO ARE WE?



## For more information or to donate to WGNRR AFRICA:

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WGNRR AFRICA is an independent regional network established under the auspices of WGNRR, and registered in 2016 under the Tanzania NGO Act 2002.

We are a membership and grassroots based network that builds and strengthens movements for sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and justice. Our work is grounded in the realities of those who most lack economic, social and political power.

Through critical analysis and strategic actions, WGNRR Africa mobilize, connect members and allies, builds knowledge, organize campaigns and share resources for the primary cause of realizing SRHR for all people, with a particular focus on the most marginalized. We believe that achieving this goal requires transformative social change and use a human rights, justice and feminist framework to advocate and campaign for the changes in social norms, legal frameworks, policies and resource allocation required to reach our goal.

We continue to be one of the few member-focused regional networks that primarily works with grassroots organisations. We are inclusive and accountable in all that we do. Strongly committed to equality for all genders, WGNRR AFRICA values diversity and intersectionality. We aim to be self-reflective, and we are independent of political, governmental or religious institutions.

### AFRICA BOARD MEMBERS, 2018

Martha J. Ibrahim, Tanzania (Board Chair)  
Easter Mwanjesa, Tanzania  
Jeannette Sloodbeek, The Netherlands  
Elinaquenit R. Mushi, Tanzania  
Eunice Maringo, Tanzania

### AFRICA STAFF MEMBERS

Nondo Ebuela Ejano, Regional Coordinator  
Dorice Tesha, Advocacy Officer  
Catherine Swai, Finance Officer  
Gillian Carter, Communication Consultant  
Millicent Knopp, Programme Associate  
Hilda Stuart Dadu, Programme Associate  
Numbilya Kiseko, Programme Associate

### SUPPORT TEAM

Marevic Parcon Bing, WGNRR Interim Executive Director  
Lara Cousin, Advocacy Manager  
Benily Valerio DIMabuyu, Finance Manager

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since its legal establishment in Tanzania, WGNRR Africa keeps growing and playing significant role in ensuring that efforts of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) aimed at advancing Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) are strengthened, coordinated and sustained.

This report highlights key achievements of WGNRR Africa for the year 2018. The achievements were mainly in areas of movement building and networking, Capacity strengthening, advocacy and campaigning, and building internal organizational capacity.

In 2018 WGNRR Africa supported and was present in different networking spaces both nationally, regionally and internationally connecting members, partners and allies and promoting leaning and sharing among them. We also strengthened capacity of grassroots women communities to champion the right-based and women-centered advocacy for holistic empowerment of women and girls; mobilized members/partners and allies to take specific actions for women's sexual and reproductive health right including the right to access contraceptive methods and safe and legal abortion services and information; and we also strengthened our internal management capacity.

Welcome to explore more about our work in 2018 and enjoy your reading!

  
NONDO EBUELA EJANO  
Regional Coordinator



# ACTIVITIES IN 2018

## 1. Movement Building & Networking

WGNRR AFRICA united local grassroots Civil Society organizations in Tanzania and Ghana where community voices were integrated into national policy level advocacy. In both countries the advocacy efforts aimed at ensuring that no women are dying from unsafe abortion and that all women have the social, political and economic power and resources to make autonomous decisions about their gender, sexuality and when, whether and how many children to have.

In both countries we enhanced partnerships and alliances between community groups and national organizations/networks in order to strengthen national movements and better coordinate national actions.

Also WGNRR Africa enhanced partnerships with national, regional and international organizations/networks at the same time strengthening relationships for regional and global actions.

## 2. Grassroots Capacity Strengthening

Most of our membership is grassroots based and often lack capacity and resources to fulfill their mission. WGNRR Africa has built capacity of its members and partners in Tanzania to develop advocacy and stigma reduction strategies and workplan to both challenge discriminatory laws and address social stigma and discrimination faced by women who seek and providers who offer SRHR services. They were also supported in implementing, monitoring and evaluating their workplans and given resources to do so.

## 3. Advocacy and Campaigning

Together with our members and allies we ensured that key influencers are informed about the SRHR realities of grassroots women and girls communities and in turn inform communities that SRHR are human rights. We supported our members and partners to address stigma around highly tabooed and neglected SRHR topics such as abortion, menstrual health and access to contraceptives for girls and unmarried women. We developed and shared tools with our member for clarifying values on most stigmatized issues for attitude transformation.

# WHAT WAS ACHIEVED?

## JANUARY

January started with strengthening capacity of our grassroots partners in Tanzania by imparting them skills on rights based and women-centered advocacy for women and girls' holistic empowerment.

A 4-day workshop on development of community level advocacy strategy was conducted in Geita/Tanzania for representatives of grassroots-based CSOs and communities partnering under the Golden Line project. They were empowered with skills to influence change in perceptions, attitudes, social norms and ineffective implementation of laws and policies that hinder women and girls in mining communities to participate fully in the social, economic and political life of the Tanzania society.

As result, 26 women community ambassadors and 6 staff members of the Golden Line implementing CSOs partners have increased skills on right based and women-centered advocacy; and a comprehensive advocacy strategy/workplan was developed and implemented in 13 mining communities of Bukombe and Geita district in Geita region.



## FEBRUARY

The month was also dominated by strengthening capacity of our grassroots partners in Ghana by imparting them the same skills that were imparted to their fellows in Tanzania. Through two separate workshops of 4 and 3 days each in Tarkwa and Bogoso respectively, women from 13 communities and CSOs working in that district were empowered to influence change in perceptions, attitudes, social norms and ineffective implementation of laws and policies that hinder women and girls in mining communities to participate fully in the social, economic and political life of the Ghana society.

As result, 20 women community ambassadors and 6 staff members of local CSOs partnering in the implementation of the Golden Line program have increased skills on right based and women-centered advocacy; and a comprehensive advocacy strategy/workplan was developed and implemented in mining communities of Tarkwa-Nsuaem and Prestea-Huni Valley districts, Western region of Ghana.



## FEBRUARY- MARCH

Between February and March, WGNRR Africa conducted a Partners Scoping Study for Love Matters Afrique project of Radio Netherlands Worldwide (RNW). Based on its long experience working with grassroots CSOs in DR Congo, WGNRR Africa was consulted by RNW to guide them in partnership start-up process by identifying SRHR and providing RNW with a baseline of interested and eligible organizations with capacity to manage and maintain a Love Matters Afrique platform, based in DRC. As a result, 25 organisations mostly based in Kinshasa and North Kivu province of DRC were assessed, out of which, four were recommended to RNW via a comprehensive analytical report.

In March we participated in a regional Workshop in Dar-es-salaam for CSOs working on the intersection of SRHR and HIV organized by Sex Rights Network (SRN) and Eastern Africa National Networks of AIDS Service Organizations (EANNASO). This meeting explored the way to strengthen knowledge exchange, cross-learning and networking between SRHR practitioners and support joint advocacy and solidarity among CSOs in the Eastern and Southern Africa region (ESA); and forge and develop strategic partnerships with relevant national and regional CSOs to strengthen action and advocacy for the advancement of SRHR in ESA. The direct outcome of this meeting was the development of a road map with priorities to improve SRHR in the ESA region.

## APRIL

In its continuing effort of networking and building movement, WGNRR Africa was present at the 2nd Regional Workshop on the Africa Charter for Human and People Rights (ACHPR) Campaign on the Decriminalization of Abortion in Africa. In this forum of several stakeholders ranging from CSOs members of Africa Coalition for Safe Abortion (ACSA), representatives of the Africa Union Commission, the Pan African Parliament health committee, and national human rights Institution from more than 10 Africa countries, participants reviewed the achievements and challenges faced in the course of implementing the Decriminalization campaign and reviewed best advocacy practices. It was also a good networking platform for movement building.

Among so many outcomes of the meeting, WGNRR Africa take-away is that we were able to bring the Commissioners of the Tanzania Human Rights Commission and Good Governance (CHRAGG) in this forum and together, we explored ways to strengthen collaboration at country level on questioning the status of domestication of the Maputo protocol and promoting comprehensive sexuality education in Tanzania.

In addition, a workshop on strategic communication in SRHR advocacy was conducted in Mwanza/Tanzania for community based members of WGNRR and CAMMAC. Also, the workshop consisted of refining the community level abortion advocacy strategy/workplan to be implemented by CAMMAC members to influence laws/policies, norms and attitudes around SRHR controversial issues including abortion.

As result, 17 representatives of WGNRR-CAMMAC members have strengthened their skills on strategic communication in abortion advocacy and; have refined an advocacy workplan and increased their commitment to abortion advocacy work in Tanzania.

## MAY

As routine at WGNRR, the month of May is always dominated by the mobilization of WGNRR members, partners and allies to take a specific action on May 28 – a global day of actions to advance women’s right to health. Although WGNRR didn’t take its global leadership role of spearheading the campaign this year, WGNRR Africa has celebrated the day by taking a specific action for the reproductive health of girls with mental disabilities.

In collaboration with the Community Development department of the Local government Authority of the Kijitonyama Ward, WGNRR and other partner CSOs have offered among other social assistance items, a kit of reusable sanitary pads to fulfill adolescent girls’ SRHR at a school of children with learning disabilities managed by the Kijitonyama Ward Council.

Direct outputs include: 46 adolescent girls at Kijitonyama School of children with learning disabilities received kits of reusable sanitary pads, and increased visibility of WGNRR and strengthened relationship with the Local Government Authority at Kijitonyama Ward.

## JUNE

The month of June was mainly characterized by advocacy work.

First, WGNRR Africa has technically and financially supported the review of the implementation of CAMMAC advocacy strategy.

The direct output is that 30 CAMMAC members attended the meeting in Morogoro/ Tanzania and have been able to assess progress, gaps and challenges along with strengthening capacity on human right protection mechanism and strategic actions in restrictive settings.

Also WGNRR Africa has technically and financially supported the 2 CAMMAC advocacy meetings with the Parliament women caucus and the Social welfare unit and key officials from the Ministry of Health and Ministry of legal Affairs in Dodoma to advocate for the domestication of Maputo protocol. The direct output of these meetings is the increased awareness of 20 MPs and 20 key ministries officials on the magnitude of maternal mortality due to unsafe abortion and the necessity of having a comprehensive national research on the issue of unsafe abortion and its human and economic impact, and the necessity of harmonising the Tanzania laws and policies legislating reproductive health issues including abortion.





## JULY

Jointly with CAMMAC, WGNRR Africa supported the conduct of a 3-day Security Audits workshop for 18 SRHR defenders in Morogoro/Tanzania. This was an opportunity for advocates to undertake a deep analysis of their individual working context and assess their real and potential risks, their capacity and vulnerability for working on abortion right in restrictive setting.

Also participants received information on available resources and tools that may assist them in addressing their own security and protection issues.

Direct result of this activity include - increased knowledge, skills and ability of advocates to assess security threats and risks they face, to document threats whenever they occur; and to define rules and procedures that suit their particular situation in order to produce security plan for themselves and their organisations.

Also WGNRR Africa convened in a meeting the 26 community ambassadors and their supporting CSOs working in the Golden Line program to review the implementation of Ambassadors' community advocacy workplan in Geita/Tanzania in order to identify achievements (outcomes/impact), key challenges and mitigation strategies; and come up with some key action points for the way forward to inform the update of the community level advocacy strategy. The direct result of this meeting is an updated advocacy work plan developed by participants. The meeting also provided a platform for learning and sharing among ambassadors.



## AUGUST

Another advocacy review meeting with 20 ambassadors and their supporting staff working in the Golden Line Programme was conducted in Tarkwa/Ghana. Participants to this meeting have reviewed the implementation of Ambassadors' community advocacy workplan in Tarkwa and Bogoso in order to identify achievements (outcomes/impact), key challenges and mitigation strategies; and come up with some key action points for the way forward to inform the update of the community level advocacy strategy. Similar to Tanzania, the meeting resulted into an updated advocacy work plan. It was also a platform for learning and sharing among ambassadors working in mining communities of Ghana.

Also WGNRR Africa was present at the 2nd international exchange organized by the Philippines Safe Abortion Network (PINSAN) in Manila, Philippines. The three-day event was participated by safe abortion rights activists from Asia, Africa, Latina America and Europe to share and learn from each other on their work to advance access to safe abortion and how to align their work with the global movement to promote and advance the right to safe and legal abortion. The Africa Regional Coordinator shared WGNRR-Africa experience and strategies to advocate for safe abortion in restrictive settings in the African context.



## SEPTEMBER

WGNRR Africa has teamed up with the Hivos Regional RSRHR Fund, The Right Here Right Now (RHRN) Zimbabwe platform and Marie Stopes Zimbabwe to shed light on 'Adolescents' need for and use of safe abortion services in Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA) through a webinar forum.

In this forum, WGNRR staffs including the Regional Coordinator and the Communications Manager presented an overview on restrictive abortion laws and policies in ESA and its implications, and the stigma surrounding abortion.

As result, advocates and health professionals from the ESA region shared experiences & findings from working on abortion rights in complex environments that have inspired actions in the promotion of universal access to SRHR for all.

Also as one of it routine activity each year, WGNRR Africa mobilized its membership to undertake specific actions on September 28 – global day of Actions for safe and legal abortion. As result 14 events were reported to be conducted in 9 African countries.

## OCTOBER

WGNRR Africa was busy supporting the development of the security policy guide for CAMMAC members with the technical consultancy of the Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC). This collaboration resulted in the production of a Security policy Guide document to be validated by CAMMAC members in a security summit workshop to be held for this purpose.

## NOVEMBER

As part of our ongoing support on the implementation of the Golden Line program in Tanzania and Ghana and building on the lessons learned throughout this process, WGNRR Africa has developed 2 Monitoring, planning and Reporting (MPR) tool to help the implementing partners to provide an overview of the progressive implementation of their workplans. The tool aims to help them capture the actual achievements, the direct results, the level of participation of ambassadors, the challenges and mitigation strategies; and use it as a basis for planning the next step. This tool was piloted and validated in Tanzania through a workshop held in November 2018 and shared through online session with our Ghanaian partners.

## DECEMBER

WGNRR Africa was active in supporting the CAMMAC national convening which provided a platform for different stakeholders including CSOs, government, students, advocates, religious leaders, women and youth groups to discuss the magnitude of maternal mortality and morbidity due to unsafe abortion in Tanzania and its impact on women's contribution to social and economic development by sharing the reality of what's happening on the ground.

December was also a month of general evaluation of our annual activities and reporting on them.



## CROSSCUTTING ACTIVITIES

### INTERNAL CAPACITY STRENGTHENING

In the course of 2018 WGNRR Africa has grown both in management and effectiveness.

In terms of management, the organization held its first ever face-to-face board meeting involving all Africa board members, the Executive Director, the Finance Manager, and the Africa team of staff. Through this meeting important decisions on the management of the organization were taken.

In terms of staffing, WGNRR Africa has completed the recruitment of his first ever Africa Finance officer. This has increased our capacity in financial management from Africa with a backup support from the Manila Coordination Office. Due to this development, the board of WGNRR Africa has decided the organization annual Audit of WGNRR Africa to be done from Tanzania separately from the global Audit done in Manila/Philippines. Also we have been able to fill the gap left by the advocacy and communication consultant who went to continue her studies. Finally, a new volunteer was recruited to support the advocacy and communication program.

In terms of funding, a particular progress has been achieved in improving the funding landscape of WGNRR Africa. A total 6 grant applications have been submitted to different donors and 3 out of 6 were approved for funding.

**MORE PHOTOS OF  
WGNRR & partners  
in #action!**



## CHALLENGES and WAYS FORWARD

Although some notable progress has been noticed in 2018, the year has challenges of its kind. The policy context in Tanzania was becoming very much regressive for the SRHR movement. A number of rollbacks were observed, narrowing thus the space for CSOs working on SRHR issues in Tanzania. Regressive and confusing statements toward SRHR were rampant and some SRHR organizations either decided to pull out or remain silence.

Also, despite the moderate improvement in our funding landscape, our funding landscape is still project based as we haven't managed to secure a core funding for the sustainability of our actions in and ensure effectiveness in the region.

However, these challenges have encouraged us to go an extra mile instead of pulling us back. We have resisted and persisted where many other organizations have decided either to pull out or lower their profile and not being vocal on most contentious SRHR issues. We are still committed and energized to pursue the noble caused of achieving SRHR for All in Africa.

## A WORD TO OUR DONORS AND SUPPORTERS

WGNRR Africa could not have achieved so much without your support! Your support has been technically and financially instrumental for us to achieve the milestones detailed in this report. We sincerely thank all of you for your dedication toward Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights for all and we invite you to lend us another round of hand so that we can strengthen and sustain our actions in Africa.##

**Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights Africa:**

# **ADVOCATING and CAMPAIGNING for **SRHR** in AFRICA**