



WOMEN'S
GLOBAL NETWORK
FOR REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

WGNRR
AFRICA

YOUNG & ALIVE
immil

WGNRR AFRICA

STAND UP
FOR
OUR RIGHTS
Implement
CSE
now

SKHR IS
ESSENTIAL

WOMEN'S
HEALTH
MATTERS!

ANNUAL REPORT

2024



Table Of Contents

Foreword	001	Wayfoward	0013
Executive Summary	002	Conclusion	014
Overview	003		
Key Annual Achievements	004-012		

Foreword

As we conclude 2024, WGNRR Africa is proud to reflect on the significant strides made in advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights and Justice (SRHRJ) across the East Africa region.

This report highlights the remarkable achievements we have accomplished, in partnership with grassroots organizations and local leaders, to ensure that women, girls, and marginalized communities are empowered to fulfill their SRHR.

In the region, our advocacy campaigning have led to tangible impacts in advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). In Tanzania, our legal advocacy, particularly through the CAPART project, has contributed to significant legal advancements, including a landmark High Court ruling that granted anonymity to petitioners, marking a pivotal step in advancing and protecting reproductive rights. Additionally, our work with youth-led organizations has led to greater access to contraception and strengthened policy reforms, notably in areas like gender-based violence and SRHR services. Our partnerships with the Center for Reproductive Rights (CRR) and Ipas Africa Alliance have bolstered these efforts, particularly around advocating for safe abortion rights and reproductive justice.

Meanwhile, youth-driven campaigns have mobilized millions of people, facilitated policy dialogue, and empowered communities to demand inclusive and youth-friendly healthcare SRH services. These combined efforts have had a lasting impact on both policy and community levels across the region.

While we celebrate these successes, we also recognize the rising challenges posed by increasing conservatism and political populism in the region. As we move into 2025, WGNRR Africa is committed to deepening the progress made and advancing a multi-pronged strategy that emphasizes grassroots advocacy, global solidarity, legal action, and inclusivity in SRHR.

We extend our deepest gratitude to our partners, stakeholders, and donors for their unwavering support. Together, we will continue to drive forward the gains of 2024 and build a future where every woman, girl, and marginalized individual can live a healthy, and empowered life. We hope this report provides valuable insights into our work and the ongoing journey toward a more just and equitable world for all.





Executive Summary

This annual report consolidates the outcomes and key learnings from three impactful projects in East Africa aimed at advancing Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and Justice (SRHRJ) for youth and women. The projects— Strengthening and Sustaining Youth-Led Advocacy for SRHR in East Africa (YouCAN II), — Sauti ya Vijana Tanzania (SYV), and Collective Action to Protect and Advance Reproductive Rights in Tanzania (CAPART) —have significantly contributed to empowering young people, dismantling barriers to SRHR access, and advocating for legal reforms.

These projects reflect WGNRR Africa's commitment to grassroots activism, capacity building, advocacy, and legal intervention in advancing reproductive justice in East Africa. The work has primarily focused on Tanzania, Kenya, and Uganda, illustrating how youth-led movements and strategic collaborations are central to achieving reproductive justice.



Overview of WGNRR Africa

We Connect and Strengthen Movements for SRHR

Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights Africa (WGNRR Africa) is a semi-autonomous affiliate of the global WGNRR Foundation, based in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, with plans for future office expansion across Africa.

We envision a continent where all people can fulfill their sexual and reproductive rights, working within frameworks of human rights, justice, and feminism.

WGNRR Africa connects partners, strengthens their capacities, organizes advocacy campaigns, and promotes SRHR and feminist values.

Our strategic focus for 2023-2027 includes ensuring effective advocacy to advance SRHRJ in the Africa region via cross-movement and cross-national collaboration and learning. It seeks to increase dialogue among partners, allies, and stakeholders on SRHR Challenges and provide solutions, while also consolidating the experiences, lessons, practices, and gains for shared learning.

Our Theory of change hinges on strengthening 4 strategic priorities: 1) Partners and allies' capacity, 2) Regional collaboration, 3) Grassroots movement, and 4) Institutional governance. For more information, visit us at <https://wgnrrafrica.org/>



Key Annual Achievements

YouCAN II Project: Strengthening and Sustaining Youth-Led Advocacy for SRHR in East Africa

The YouCAN II project, a two-year initiative, focused on empowering youth to lead advocacy efforts for SRHR in Tanzania, Kenya, and Uganda. Its main objectives included addressing barriers to Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE), contraception access, and safe abortion services. By engaging grassroots youth-led organizations and linking them to national, regional and global SRHR networks, YouCAN II project created a platform for young people, particularly young women and girls, to exercise their reproductive rights.

Key Achievements

Youth-Led Advocacy

Trained **105 Anti-Stigma Champions** in Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda who led campaigns in **12 districts** of their respective countries, resulting in increased youth contraceptives uptake, increases awareness of gender-based violence (GBV) in health facilities and schools, and increased participation of youth in policy review processes.

National and International Campaigns

Capacitated **44 youth-led organizations** who reached over **8.4 million people** through campaigns during key International Women Days, i.e. International Safe Abortion Day (ISAD) and Int'l day for Action Women's health.

Networking and Capacity Building

101 youth-led organizations, capacitated and collaborated to develop and implement strategies to monitor and counter the growing opposition to SRHR in the region.

Young and Alive Summit

The summit provided a platform for youth advocates, SRHR champions, and policymakers to push for policy reforms in Tanzania.

Challenges and Actions Taken

Opposition from Conservative Groups

Addressed by providing digital security training and establishment of opposition monitoring and countering mechanisms.

Limited Core Funding

Efforts are undergoing to diversify our sources of funding and you're welcome to be part of this journey .Please reach out to: office@wgnrrafrica.org

Cultural and Gender Norms

Addressed through grassroots activism and collaboration with local community leaders.

Impact and Wayforward

YouCAN II's efforts have had a significant impact on SRHR awareness and policy dialogue, particularly around CSE, access to Contraception and safe abortion services. Moving forward, the focus will be on scaling up advocacy, improving digital security for youth activists, and ensuring sustained funding.

"Before the 'End Stigma Tour', I believed contraceptives caused permanent infertility. Through interactive discussions, I learned that most contraceptives are reversible and I now feel empowered to make informed SRHR decisions and support my peers." (Anti-stigma champion from Uganda)



YOU CAN PROJECT

Elimu sahihi na huduma rafiki za afya ya uzazi ni sehemu muhimu ya maisha yetu. Jenga ufahamu, punguza unyanyapaa!

Unaona hapa wameeleza vizuri sana njia za kuziua mimba zisizotarajia kwa sisi vijana



Ninotuma na nimeeleza lakini itakuwa vizuri daktari mtaalamu wa afya ya uzazi

#EndStigmaonSRH #YouCanEndStigma

Funded by:



WGNRR

AFRICA



Sauti ya Vijana (SYV) Project in Tanzania

The SYV project in the Morogoro and Iringa regions of Tanzania aimed to amplify the voices of young people, particularly adolescent girls and young women, in demanding access to comprehensive SRHR services. It strengthened youth-led and women-led organizations and connected young people to youth-friendly SRHR service providers.

Key Achievements

Engagement and Empowerment

Established **33 youth SRHR clubs** that reached **55,902 adolescents and youth** with SRHR information.

Capacity Building

Trained **30 Peer Educators** and **5 Youth and Women-led CSOs (Y&WLCs)**, who reached over **18,000 adolescents** with SRHR & GBV information to create demand for services.

Increased Service Access

Facilitated **2,500 referrals** for SRHR services and distributed **8,000 informational materials**.

Challenges and Actions Taken

Financial and Scheduling Constraints

Addressed collaborating with government authorities to integrate our approaches in the health system and rescheduling activities to meet the needs of in-school youths.

Shifting Roles in Technical Working Groups (TWGs)

Overcame by restructuring TWGs for better coordination.

Weather Disruptions

Adapted by rescheduling events and exploring virtual outreach.

Impact and Wayforward

The SYV project has significantly increased youth participation in SRHR advocacy. Moving forward, SYV will focus on scaling advocacy efforts, extending outreach to marginalized groups, and improving service delivery in rural areas.

"The skills I acquired from the smart advocacy training gave me power to demand my rights to SRH services and to be free from Gender Based Violence (GBV). I now stand for my Rights" (A young advocate from Tanzania)





CAPART Project: Collective Action to Protect and Advance Reproductive Rights in Tanzania

The CAPART project focused on challenging Tanzania's restrictive abortion laws through legal advocacy and strategic litigation. Collaborating with legal and reproductive rights stakeholders, CAPART worked towards legal reform to align Tanzania's abortion laws with international human rights standards, especially the Maputo protocol.

Key Achievements

Legal Advancements

The High Court ruling granting anonymity to petitioners challenging the unconstitutionality of a number of the penal code provisions marked a significant victory.

Stakeholder Engagement

Strengthened strategic collaborative approaches through regular consultations with stakeholders during key events like International Safe Abortion Day.

Public Advocacy

Launched advocacy campaigns featuring personal stories from survivors of sexual violence to raise awareness on the necessity of aligning domestic laws with regional and international human right standards to protect reproductive rights in Tanzania.

Challenges and Actions Taken

Setbacks in Case Filing

Overcame with persistent legal work and meticulous documentation.

Funding Constraints

Actively pursued additional funding to expand outreach. Your support in this area will make a big impact.

Stakeholder Coordination

Improved communication and collaboration among partners.

Impact and Wayforward

CAPART has effectively raised awareness of abortion restrictions and mobilized support for reform. Going forward, it will focus on advancing the refiled case, building more stakeholder partnerships, and securing funding for sustainability.

"Asking the court to clarify what the law means by 'good faith and with reasonable care and skills' will not help anything. Instead, lets ask the court to extend legal grounds for provision of safe abortion to survivals of rape, incest, defilement and sexual assault". (Advocate from Tanzania)







Movement Strengthening and International Engagement

In 2024, WGNRR Africa significantly enhanced its movement-strengthening activities. Participation in global forums and strategic partnerships helped position WGNRR Africa as a central player in SRHR advocacy. Notable international engagements included:

United Nations Civil Society Conference – Nairobi, Kenya (May 9-10, 2024)

There was a platform to strengthen collaboration and strategizing to ensure SRHR is included in global policy discussions and inform the “Pact for the Future.”

4th International Exchange for Safe Abortion Rights Advocacy (I-Ex) – Manila, Philippines

WGNRR Africa collaborated with global SRHR advocates to co-create strategies for decriminalizing abortion in the Philippines, and strengthening networks.

15th AWID International Forum – Bangkok, Thailand (December 2-5, 2024)

The forum provided valuable networking opportunities within the global feminist movement, enhancing the organization's capacity to advocate for SRHR.

These engagements fostered strategic partnerships and deepened WGNRR Africa's influence in global SRHR discussions.



How did 2024 Contribute toward our Key strategic objectives ?

The three projects implemented in 2024 by WGNRR Africa were strategically aligned with the organization's core objectives and its 2023-2027 Strategic Plan. The achievements from these initiatives directly contribute to the key result areas (KRAs) of strengthening SRHR advocacy, enhancing youth leadership, and building sustainable and inclusive movements across Africa.

Strengthening the SRHR advocacy

The YouCAN II project made substantial progress in this area by training Anti-stigma champions who led effective advocacy campaigns in Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda. These trained youth activists have become central figures in national and regional SRHR movements, ensuring that youth-led perspectives are included in policy dialogues and decision-making processes in their respective countries. The project's focus on empowering youth to take on leadership roles within their communities aligns with the strategic goal of building an informed, empowered, and effective network of SRHR advocates. Further, by engaging over 44 youth-led organizations and facilitating workshops on digital security and activism, the project has directly supported the growth of youth-led advocacy networks. This increased capacity enables grassroots organizations to advocate more effectively for SRHR at the local, national, and regional levels, addressing a critical gap in many East African nations where grassroots youth voices are often marginalized.



Promoting National/Regional Collaboration for SRHR Advocacy

WGNRR Africa has emphasized the importance of national collaboration to amplify SRHR advocacy across Tanzanian regions. Through the SYV project, which worked in Tanzania's Morogoro and Iringa regions, youth-led and women-led organizations were equipped to advocate for increased access to SRHR services. The project's activities, including the establishment of SRHR clubs and peer educators' training, have created networks that not only foster local collaboration but also link grassroots Tanzanian youth to broader national networks for SRHR advocacy.

Additionally, the establishment of 33 SRHR clubs that connected young people across various regions of Tanzania, exemplifies WGNRR Africa's strategic aim to strengthen networks of youth advocates. This local-to-national collaboration enhances the collective ability of activists to advocate for policy reform at local, national and regional levels, demonstrating a tangible step toward expanding WGNRR Africa's regional influence.



Strengthening Grassroots Movements for SRHR

The **CAPART project**, focused on challenging restrictive abortion laws in Tanzania, is a direct response to WGNRR Africa's goal of strengthening grassroots movements and ensuring that marginalized communities have a voice in advocacy. Through strategic litigation and public advocacy, CAPART has empowered grassroots organizations to challenge legal and policy barriers to reproductive rights, especially the highly restrictive abortion laws in Tanzania. CAPART's approach aligns with the goal of fostering grassroots movements that push for local and systemic change in SRHR access.

Further Impact: Through collaborative efforts with legal professionals and grassroots organizations, CAPART has worked to create space for critical dialogues around reproductive rights. This engagement has increased public awareness and advocacy for SRHR, directly supporting WGNRR Africa's mission of amplifying grassroots voices and ensuring that legal frameworks are reflective of human rights standards.



Advocating for Legal and Policy Reforms on SRHR

The CAPART project's focus on challenging Tanzania's abortion laws through legal advocacy is a significant step in aligning national laws with international human rights standards. The strategic litigation efforts undertaken by the project have already produced impactful results, including the High Court's ruling to allow petitioners' anonymity and the refiled case challenging abortion restrictions. These milestones are direct contributions to WGNRR Africa's goal of advocating for legal reforms that protect reproductive rights.

Further Impact: The combination of legal challenges, public education campaigns, and collaborations with local organizations ensures that the issue of restrictive abortion laws is actively addressed. This contributes not only to advancing legal reform in Tanzania but also strengthens WGNRR Africa's ability to influence policy across the East African region. CAPART's advocacy supports a broader regional and continental effort to ensure reproductive justice and equality.



Key Learnings

The key learning from 2024 highlights the importance of building grassroots movements, strengthening youth-led advocacy, and fostering collaboration for effective SRHR advocacy. The YouCAN II project demonstrated the power of youth-led initiatives in driving policy reform and addressing SRHR barriers, with a focus on training leaders and expanding networks. The SYV project showcased the value of local-to-national collaboration, empowering youth to advocate for increased SRHR access. CAPART's legal advocacy emphasized the need for challenging restrictive laws through strategic litigation. Furthermore, international engagement and institutional strengthening have positioned WGNRR Africa as a stronger regional and global advocate for SRHR, ensuring long-term sustainability and impact.

Wayforward

As we reflect on the achievements, challenges, and lessons learned from different initiatives undertaken in 2024, WGNRR Africa is committed to strengthening and scaling the impact of these initiatives in the coming years. The following strategic priorities will guide the organization's way forward:

Strengthening Youth Leadership

Strengthening Youth Leadership: Build on the momentum created by YouCAN II by expanding training for youth leaders and Anti-Stigma Champions. Foster deeper collaboration between youth-led organizations to enhance advocacy efforts in additional countries across East Africa, particularly in regions where SRHR issues are most urgent but where youth voices remain marginalized.

Sustaining Partnerships and Funding

Secure diverse funding sources and strengthen partnerships with local, regional, and international actors to ensure financial stability. Continue to leverage networks from global forums to access resources and expertise while exploring alternative funding mechanisms such as digital platforms, crowdfunding and income generation activities.

Scaling Advocacy and Legal Reforms

Amplify CAPART's legal advocacy by expanding strategic litigation to challenge restrictive laws in Tanzania and other countries. Focus on broadening public awareness and increasing policy engagement at national and regional levels to build wider support for SRHR policies.

Enhancing Digital Security and Grassroots Protection:

Address digital security concerns by expanding training and tools for youth activists, ensuring that their efforts remain safe from opposition groups.

Expanding Outreach to Marginalized Groups:

Extend initiatives to include marginalized communities, particularly rural areas and vulnerable populations, ensuring comprehensive SRHR access for all. Capacity-building efforts will be intensified, particularly focusing on marginalized groups who face compounded barriers to accessing reproductive health services.

Expanding Outreach to Marginalized Groups:

Enhancing Stakeholder Engagement and Collaboration: Continue building strong partnerships with local, national, and international stakeholders to amplify SRHR advocacy efforts. Efforts shall focus on fostering collaborations with both feminist movements and legal advocates to ensure the integrated advancement of SRHR issues.

By focusing on these areas, WGNRR Africa will solidify the achievements of 2024, ensuring a sustainable and impactful future for SRHR advocacy across the region.



Conclusion

The YouCAN II, SYV, and CAPART projects have laid a solid foundation for advancing SRHR in East Africa. The achievements, challenges, and lessons learned from these initiatives underscore the importance of youth leadership, grassroots activism, and legal reform in achieving reproductive justice. As WGNRR Africa continues its work, the organization will build on these successes, adapt to the challenges, and further strengthen its impact through strategic collaboration, advocacy, and resource mobilization. The future of SRHR advocacy in East Africa is promising, and WGNRR Africa is poised to continue leading the charge for reproductive justice for women and youth across the region.



www.wgnrrafrica.org