



# WIC NEWS

The monthly Bulletin of the  
Women's Information Centre

WOMEN'S INFORMA-  
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Project supported by the  
Italian Government and  
implemented with the  
technical support of the  
Italian Association for  
Women in Development  
"Institutional Strength-  
ening of the Ministry of  
Community Develop-  
ment, Gender and  
Children"  
Project n. AID 4468.03.0

N. 12

August 2004

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## FROM WIC'S MANAGEMENT

Dear readers,

The current issue of WIC News is focusing on: the economic empowerment of women, the rights of children born out of wedlock; the role of women in the Great Lakes Region and the clients of the new WIC's service.

In particular, in the section *ISSUES*, the first article offers an overview of the recommendations of the Tanzania Women Lawyers Association (TAWLA) on how to improve the life and guarantee the rights of children born out of wedlock. The second article deals with the economic empowerment of women in Tanzania by summarizing the information contained in the Country Report on the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action.

In the section of *THE MINISTRY IN ACTION*, highlights of the preparations of the Forum of Great Lakes Region are provided, and in particular events focusing on women and children issues. The second article provides interviews with two clients of the pilot service offered by WIC to young women in search of a job, training and scholarship opportunities.

Finally, the *WIC DOCUMENTATION CENTRE* section, offers suggestions for further reading and links to websites for those readers interested in getting more information on issues related to the articles in this number of *WIC News*.

Enjoy the reading,

WIC Management.

## THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN GREAT LAKES REGION

ISSUES

The Ministry of Community Development, Gender and Children (MCDGC) with the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), organized a meeting for Tanzania women leaders including Members of Parliament, representatives of religious organization, and Non Governmental Organizations (NGO). The objective of the two-day meeting (23-24 August 2004) was to provide a forum to discuss the problems faced by women and children and the society at large and make recommendation to be submitted and discussed by the Regional Women's Summit of the Great Lakes Region.

It is expected that during the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region , held in Rwanda, women representatives from countries forming the Great Lakes region would come up with a common stand on women's participation in development activities peace and security in the region.

The Tanzanian Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, said that the conference is expected to revolve around four themes: Peace and Security in the Region, Economic Development and Regional Integration, Democracy, Human Rights and Good Governance, and Social Development and Humanitarian issues.

In his opening remarks the Acting Permanent Secretary of the MCDGC, Mr. Thomas Sowani, said that women in countries of the Great Lakes Region have a crucial role to play to ensure that peace and stability prevail, and that they are the main victims of internal conflicts in the region.

He said that the role of women in developing and rebuilding countries in the Great Lakes Region is crucial in order to strengthen existing political, economic, social and cultural relations in the region. To achieve the objectives a relentless drive is needed to preserve peace and security. Existing peace and security in the Great Lakes Region is threatened by acts of violence, sexual harassment and rape of women and children. In addition to the spread of arms, there is also an increased wave of HIV infection and drug abuse and the problems continue to be ramping because of life pressure and poverty.

"To a large extent the main victims of these problems are women and children. "Our challenge today is to get voices of women with perspective opinion and views to maintain peace and security, human rights, democracy and good governance and regional integration in the Great Lakes Region" said Mr. Sowani. Lack of people and stability undermined development efforts in the region and Tanzania in particular has also involved. Lack of peace and security accompanied by armed conflicts in neighboring countries has led infect to a major influx of refugees.

Refugees have caused environmental destruction and increased poverty for the refugees themselves and people living in the areas where they settle. It is a fact that, as conflicts and wars prevailed in the region, it is difficult to put in place and implement strategies and development programmes for regional integration, social development and gender issues . "I believe you will agree with me that the existence of democracy is the only basic foundation to maintain human rights, freedom and gender equality, peace and stability in the region" emphasized Mr. Sowani, who challenged participants to brainstorm on economic development in the Great Lakes Region and identify approaches women should adopt to play a more active role in the region's development.

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## CTN..

The meeting offered an opportunity for women in Tanzania to brainstorm , share and exchange ideas and views on matters related to peace and security. At the end of the meeting the women came up with twelve resolutions, related to peace and security, democracy and good governance, economic and regional integration and social issues at large.

The 80 participant to the meeting from all sections of society, agreed on the need to establish special and secure places in their respective countries where women, children and disabled people could seek refuge in times of crisis, to ensure that children are socialized to grow and live in peaceful environment the participants also agreed on the importance that media personnel are involved in discussing peace and security in the Great Lakes Region.

It was also agreed that all children, including girls should be encouraged and prepared to become future leaders and responsible citizens. Curriculum for primary schools should include topics on civics, human rights and gender and it was also recommended to ensure the provision of immediate services required by refugees, such as food and shelter by utilizing available local products and materials.

In addition to the promotion of a culture of tolerance within as a strategy for building and promoting sustainable peace and security within the Great Lakes Region, there is a need to ensure that effective mechanisms are put in place for detecting people causing problems that lead to violence or war in the region.



*The Acting Permanent Secretary, Mr Thomas Sowani while opening the two day meeting on the role of women in Great Lakes Region.*

## W O M E N S E C O N O M I C EMPOWERMENT AND POVERTY ERADICATION IN TANZANIA

THE MINISTRY  
IN ACTION

In a Country Report on the "*Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome of the Twenty-Third Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly, Women 2000: Gender Equality, Development Peace*, The Ministry of Community Development, Gender and Children (MCDGC) has presented the progress on women's economic empowerment in Tanzania in many areas of concern, including economic empowerment.

According to the report, most of the women in small and medium enterprises in Tanzania have been empowered economically by facilitating their access to financial facilities in the form of credit, training in entrepreneurship and business management, and access to markets. However more support is required to enable these women to acquire standards certification for their products and to access international and external markets.

During the same period various credit facilities targeting women have been established. They include the Women Development Fund (WDF) and CREW supported by the government through the National Gender Machinery and complemented by local councils. The WDF provides credit to women in all the 114 local councils of mainland Tanzania. A similar fund operates in Zanzibar.

Other funds include those established by different stakeholders, which target poor women. Among those are the, Promotion of Rural Initiatives and Development Enterprises (PRIDE), the Foundation for International Community Assistance (FINCA) and the Small Enterprises Loan Facility (SELF). Furthermore, efforts have been made to mobilize communities including women, to form Savings and Credit Cooperative Associations (SACCOS). These credits help women individual or group of women to secure loans to establish their businesses.

In addition, women have been supported to participate in international and local trade fairs and exhibitions, through which they have been able to market their products, gain and learn from each other about marketing and product development. Equal Opportunity For All Trust Fund (EOTF) has done a lot in enabling women to secure places for exhibiting their goods at the trade fair grounds.

"Exchange of experience during trade fairs has contributed to confidence building amongst women and has enabled them to face the challenges of competition and globalization", says the Minister for Community Development, Gender and Children, Hon Dr Asha-Rose Migiro (MP) in the report.

The Post Beijing era has seen women taking up challenges brought about by customs and traditions, which hitherto prohibited women's participation in economic endeavors. More women as individuals or in groups and associations have been engaged in investment ventures particularly in the informal sector. There is a need challenge is how to facilitate women to graduate from the informal sector to the formal sector, particularly in the more productive areas of the economy. There is a need to enhance capacities to produce quality products required by the markets. Women manage to participate in trade fairs and secure orders, but fail to meet large orders due to limited production capacities. Furthermore another challenges is how to facilitate access to information and technology for entrepreneurs women, especially those in the rural areas. The full version of the country report is available at the documentation centre of Women Information Centre (WIC) at the MCDGC.

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## CHILDREN BORN OUT OF WED- LOCK

THE MINISTRY

The Tanzania Women Lawyers Association (TAWLA) has launched an advocacy campaign on the protection of the rights of children born out of wedlock. Recommendations were discussed at a consultative workshop on laws relating to children born out of wedlock, held at the Luther House in Dar es Salaam on the 16th of September 2004.

A child born out of wedlock is defined by Law as "the one born to parents who are not married to each other at the time of his/her birth," or ,in other words, the child born by unmarried man or woman. The matter concerning children born out of wedlock in Tanzania is governed by both *Customary Laws* which operate hand in hand in the country legal system and Statutory Laws, and existing legislations.

According to the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* (CRC) the rights of children include the right access to necessities for their survival like food, shelter, clothes and health care, as well as the rights to education, name and nationality, to parent and family care, play and recreation, to mention only a few. The CRC places on the government the obligation to protect all children, born in or out of wedlock, from any form of discrimination and to take positive actions to protect their rights by ensuring that all actions concerning the child take full account his/her best interest. For various reasons most children born out of wedlock in Tanzania have been discriminately denied their fundamental rights. They have been subjected to living under difficult conditions.

*The Affiliation Ordinance cap 278* rules on children born out of wedlock. It concerns the procedures to be followed to establish a court case, when the putative father of a neglected child, if so adjudged, is held responsible for the maintenance of the child. Unlike for customary law, statutory law requires the putative father to pay for maintenance. The amount of money to be paid as maintenance for a child born out of wedlock by the putative father so adjudged, does not exceed 100 shillings or a lump sum of 15,000 shillings. A child born out of wedlock is not entitled to inherit from his father's estate unless the father leaves a will to be confirmed in a court of law.

It is against this background that TAWLA, after having analyzed the strength and weaknesses of the laws on the rights of the child born out of wedlock, has recommended steps to ensure that the laws really safeguard and protect the rights of all children including those born out of wedlock. These include harmonization of the laws, increase of maintenance amount, changes in the succession laws, and in the inheritance sector, which traditionally excludes children born out of wedlock from inheritance.

A special fund is suggested to be established to take care of those children whose fathers cannot pay maintenance for various reasons like meager income, insanity, death, etc. regardless of their status (legitimate or illegitimate). Other countries, especially developed ones, have got child welfare allowance statutorily provided to children of low income families and of single mothers. Furthermore it is proposed that Tanzania establishes special courts for family matters.

Stern measures should also be taken against fathers who defy the maintenance orders. Although at the moment a man can be charged with imprisonment without bail for any term not exceeding 3 months, practically this is not implemented. It is therefore suggested, to sensitize the courts to enforce the law accordingly. The Tanzanian constitution needs to be amended too, since the bill of rights and duties does not guarantee the rights of the child as special and distinct category of human rights as the case in the South African constitution.

**"A Child born out of wedlock is defined by law as the one born to parents who are not married to each other at the time of his/her birth"**

## INTERVIEW WITH WIW CLIENTS

THE MINISTRY  
IN ACTION

The Women Information Window (WIW) is a new service available at the Women's Information Centre (WIC) of the Ministry of Community Development, Gender and Children in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The objective of the service is to provide women, in search of job, training and scholarships opportunities, with professional counseling and updated information. WIW has created a network of contacts with relevant sources of information for job, training and scholarship opportunities and constantly monitors relevant media and its network of contacts in order to collect updated information which is stored and maintained on regular basis.

WIW offer it clients information on available opportunities in Dar es Salaam by providing: Counseling and information on how best to draft a CV, presentation letter and an application for job and on how to go for an interview.

- Information on available training opportunities according to qualifications both in Tanzania and abroad.
- Contacts and information on institutes and organizations providing scholarships both nationally and internationally.
- Counseling on how to effectively look for job, training and scholarship opportunities.

Updated and clients oriented information, education and communication materials provide women with practical guidelines on how to undertake the needed activities to successfully achieve their objective.

***“The Women Information Window (WIW) is a new service available at the Women’s Information Centre within the Ministry of Community Development, Gender and Children in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania”***



***WIW client filling her forms.***

On 24th of August 2004 the WIW conducted an interview with two clients, Ms Josephine Mwakibete and Ms Redempta Samuel. Ms Mwakibete an accountant with SCAN Tanzania Limited who visited the centre to get information, was told about the WIW services of WIW a relative who confirmed the service to be good and help many women to succeed in various activities. She recommended the WIW services and suggested that in order to improve it , it needs to be advertised in the media ,in order to make it known to many women from different parts of the country. About her future perspectives, Ms Mwakibete said that she intends to get a Masters degree in Business Administration and is visiting WIW to get information about available opportunities for scholarship.

Another client was Ms Redempta Samuel, a research assistant at the University of Dar es Salaam. She said that she got information about the services of WIW from her colleague through WIW sheet and website. Ms Samuel said that she finds the services to be of very high quality and informative.

She added that the information on job vacancies and scholarships provided by WIW were very useful to her for her to get chances for for future. She advised WIW expert to communicate more often with the clients and proposed to organize meetings with WIW Clients. She added that her plan is to get a good job and educate other women to liberate themselves.



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this bulletin do not  
necessarily represent the  
views of the Ministry of  
Community Development,  
Gender and Children

## WIC DOCUMENTATION CENTRE

The WIC documentation centre is pleased to inform its readers of the newly published bibliography entitled "**TFTW collection bibliography**". This work was finalized after completing the integrating all the documents related to Training Fund for Tanzania Women (TFTW) into the WIC database. This bibliography contains descriptions and abstracts of Theses, Dissertations, Project and Course Work Reports, training Manuals and Workshop and Seminar Reports of most of Phase II and a few of Phase I training programs. This bibliography serves both as reference and are search tool to identify the subject areas and the corresponding potential Tanzanian women professionals, which could be very useful for organizations seeking for expertise both, on the selected fields within and outside the country. The bibliography is considerable for distribution of the WIC documentation centre

### ABSTRACTS OF KEY DOCUMENTS RELATED TO ISSUE No.12

***Engendering peace: reflections on the Burundi peace process/ by Enid de Silva Burke ..et al. - Nairobi (Kenya): UNIFEM, 2001. - x, 77 p***

This book is an addition to the *African Women for Peace Series*. It recognized, for the first time in history, of the contribution Burundi women to the peace efforts for their war-torn land. This recognition was based on the outcome of the historic All-Party Burundi Women's Peace Conference held in Tanzania in 2000. It narrates how the women of Burundi have helped to set a symbolic precedent by breaching a wall of gender-based exclusion and have set an example for other women in the Great Lakes Region in Africa. It includes background information, the final declaration document and two appendices.

***Empowering women in Tanzania: portraying the achievements of the last 10 years/by Ministry of Community Development Gender and Children (MCDGC). - Dar es Salaam (Tanzania): MCDGC, 2004. - 51: bibliog.; ill.***

This catalogue is divided into five main sections. Each section contains a brief analysis of the pre and post Beijing situation in Tanzania in each of the five areas of concern, focusing on the achievements and the challenges ahead. Each area is portrayed by photographs that show achievements in the empowerment of women, promoting the rights of the girl child and in the process for gender equality.

***Modalities for strengthening capacities of gender initiatives and sub-regional co-operation in Eastern Africa / by Eastern Africa Sub-regional Development Centre of the UN Economic Commission for Africa. - Arusha (Tanzania): Eastern Africa Sub-regional Development Centre of the UN Economic Commission for Africa, 1997. - 17 p.:***

This paper presents an overview of gender initiatives taking place in Eastern Africa and with regard to the Regional and Global Platform for Action. In response to commitments made at the Fourth World Conference on Women, several initiatives and different mechanism are being put in place to achieve specified targets and objectives. The implementers/facilitators include national government machineries, Non Governmental Organizations, UN agencies and other bi-lateral development partners.

### USEFUL LINKS

1. <http://www.peacewomen.org/resources/Burundi/burundiindex.html>

This the official website for the PeaceWomen, a Women's International League for Peace and Freedom Project monitors and works toward a rapid and full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security. This site provides accurate and timely information on women, peace and security issues and women's peace-building initiatives in areas of armed conflict. It serves as a tool of communication among and mobilization of advocates and supporters in civil society, the UN system and governments working on women, peace and security issues as well as advocacy for the integration of gender analysis in the governance, peace and security work of civil society actors, the UN system, and governmental bodies.

2. <http://www.tanzania.go.tz/gender.html>

This is a link to the gender section of the Tanzania government website. The section addresses various issues related to women empowerment in the country, such as Gender and Employment; Legal capacity; Economic empowerment of women and poverty eradication; Women's political empowerment and decision making; Women's access to education, training and employment, Opportunities and Policies in place related to Gender.