



Supported by



IMARA WOMEN AND YOUTH IN SIASA LEARNING SESSIONS

A Women and Youth in Democracy (WYDE) Civic Engagement for “Accountability Hubs,” to improve the inclusion of young people in democracy and decision-making in the United Republic of Tanzania

Foreword by Petrider Paul

WYDE Accountability Hub Member 2023/2024

Board of Directors - Imara Leadership Initiative Tanzania

The United Republic of Tanzania has a significant demographic of youth and women, who together represent a substantial portion of the population. Despite this, both groups face considerable challenges in political participation and civic engagement. The government has recognized the importance of gender equality and youth inclusion, yet there remain gaps between policy intentions and actual implementation.

It is evident that The United Republic of Tanzania has one of the world's fastest growing young people's population out of the estimated 60 million people in the United Republic of Tanzania, and more than 50 per cent are under 18 years and over 70 percent are under the age of 30 years .This demographic is crucial for the future development of the country, as they are potential leaders, innovators, and contributors to economic growth.

Women also constitute about half of the population but are significantly underrepresented in political roles. the Tanzanian government has initiated various reforms aimed at enhancing women's representation in politics in the administration led by Her Excellency President Dr.Samia Suluhu Hassan has been particularly proactive since her assumption of office where among many things she has established a Presidential Task Force for Multiparty Democracy.

To address democratic challenges and promote youth and women participation in public affairs in the United Republic of Tanzania the Women and Youth in Democracy (WYDE) Accountability Hubs project led by the Kofi Annan Foundation, The Oslo Center , The European Partnership for Democracy (EPD) , Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) in the European Union Funded project.



Table of Contents

Acronyms	01
Youth Democracy Talks	02
Youth Leaders as Actors to End Mis and Dis Information of Elections in Tanzania	03
Women Democracy Talks	04
Youth in Siasa Learning Session	05
Women in Siasa Learning Session	06

Acronyms

African Union	AU
Action for Change and Transparency Wazalendo	ACT Wazalendo
Chama Cha Mapinduzi	CCM
Civil Society Organization	CSO
European Partnership for Democracy	EPD
European Union	EU
Gender Based Violence	GBV
Imara Leadership Initiative	ILI
United Nations	UN
Umoja wa Vijana wa Chama Cha Mapinduzi	UVCCM
West Minister Foundation for Democracy	WFD
Women and Youth in Democracy	WYDE

Acknowledgements

This report is the result of several months of virtual and in person consultations with the women and youth from a diverse range of leadership positions in political parties, UN agencies, CSOs, private sector, media, academicians and public citizens of the United Republic of Tanzania. This report highlights the situational analysis, challenges, solutions and opportunities aims to improve the enfranchisement, empowerment, and inclusion of youth in all levels of democratic participation at the national level and influence the regional, and global scales.

Imara Leadership Initiative would like to extend its sincere appreciation to everyone who contributed to supporting and shaping this report under the leadership of the Kofi Annan Foundation, The Oslo Center, The European Partnership for Democracy, Westminster Foundation for Democracy in the European Union Funded project,

Our sincerest gratitude and thanks goes to Jokate Urban Mwegelo, Secretary General of CCM's Youth Wing (UVCCM) and member of the Network of Young Decision-makers part of Women and Youth in Democracy Initiative, Mr. Frederick Fussi from the International Republic Institute (IRI) Tanzania Office, Dr. Victoria Lihuru an Academician and Governance Expert, Dr. Naiké Moshi the CEO of Women in Management Africa, Mr. Kennedy Mmari the CEO of Serengeti Bytes Tanzania, Ms. Dorice John Mgetta the Technical member of Tanzania Development Vision 2050, Ms. Yolokazi Mfuto a development practitioner and political analyst from the Republic of South Africa, Mr. Lenin Kazoba the Executive Director of the Tanzania Youth Coalition, Mr. Selemani Makwita the Executive Director of Action for Democratic Governance, Ms. Nyangubu Yessy Nyamsogoro the Executive Director at Her Uraia Clickers, Mr. Abdalla Abeid the Executive Director at the Zanzibar Fighting Against Youth Challenges Organization, Engineer Petro Ndolezi from ACT Wazalendo, Ms. Rahma Mwita from ACT Wazalendo Shadow youth leaders, Ms. Judy Achieng from Siasa Place Kenya and all stakeholders involved throughout the process.

Your leadership, support and dedication to the Imara Leadership Initiative secretariat activities to promote women and youth in democracy the findings from this report would not have been possible without your collaborations.

We would like to specially thank the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania for their commitment to promote democracy in the country and providing avenues for debate and policy discussion on women and youth in decision making processes and most of all the Kofi Annan Foundation, The Oslo Center, The European Partnership for Democracy (EPD), Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) in the European Union Funded project.



Introduction

The Women and Youth in Democracy (WYDE) Civic Engagement Initiative project comes at significant time and brought together women and young leaders from across the country through Imara Women and Youth Learning Sessions aimed to enhance skills in good governance and democratic leadership, political accountability, and advocacy around ending gender targeted political violence.

The 2020 elections in The United Republic of Tanzania were significant in the context of political representation, particularly for women and youth. Despite women making up approximately half of the population, their representation in political offices remained critically low. In the 2020 parliamentary elections, only 26 women were elected to parliament out of a total of 264 seats, which translates to about 9.8% of the total parliamentary representation. Furthermore, women accounted for merely 9% of candidates across various levels including presidential, parliamentary, and councilorship positions.

Youth also face barriers to participation. The lack of political competition and limited opportunities for engagement often result in disillusionment among younger citizens. This demographic is crucial not only for their numbers but also for their potential to drive change through innovative ideas and fresh perspectives

The Imara Women and Youth in Siasa (*'siasa' being a Swahili word that translates to Politics*) Learning Sessions outcome report is crucial in promoting a more inclusive democratic environment in the United Republic of Tanzania. By highlighting the experiences and perspectives of women and youth, it will contribute to the formulation of policies that address the barriers to political participation that these groups face, including legal, cultural, and economic obstacles, hence increasing women and youth representation in accountability matters and decision-making process.

This outcome report will also serve as a valuable resource for organizations working towards women and youth in democracy empowerment and inspire a new generation of leaders who will bring positive change and create a more inclusive and equitable society. The initiative targeted 50 youth between the ages of 18 to 35 years as per the Tanzania National Youth Policy definition of youth and 50 women from the private sector, government, political parties, academicians, community leaders, media, inter-governmental organization, civil society and the general public.





About Imara Leadership Initiative

Imara Leadership Initiative (ILI) is a Non-Governmental Organization registered in The United Republic of Tanzania and operates throughout the 26 regions of the country. ILI specializes in working on programmes related to good governance, gender equality, health promotion and peace building and is focused on building skills through training programmes, policy reviews, supporting the creation of gender inclusive platforms for public participation in decision-making processes and social accountability.

As a leadership capacity building organization, Imara Leadership Initiative (ILI) promotes leadership excellence in various sectors of society being a bridge to leaders from across Tanzania to discuss leadership challenges, best practices, and innovative solutions, adopting a holistic approach of learning and skills development through trainings, workshops, events, and conferences by offering programs designed to enhance leadership skills for young professionals and public sector leaders.

In this backdrop Imara Leadership Initiative (ILI) led the implementation of the WYDE Accountability Hub project under the broader WYDE Civic Engagement initiative in the United Republic of Tanzania.



Transparency
Accountability



Gender Justice



Civic Engagement

Youth Democracy Talks

Youth Leaders as Actors to End Mis and Dis Information of Elections in Tanzania

Misinformation can be defined as false or misleading information spread without malicious intent, while disinformation is deliberately deceptive information intended to mislead, young people highlighted that factors such as unemployment, limited access to quality education, and censorship contribute to the proliferation of these issues among youth during and post-election process where by many young people struggle to differentiate between credible news sources and unreliable ones, which can lead to confusion during critical electoral periods.



We have expanded the civic space in Zanzibar through several initiatives working with young people at "Kijiweni Level" that we empower on accountability matters to address challenges of youth in Zanzibar

Abdalla Abeid,
Executive Director- Zanzibar Fighting Against Youth Challenges Organization (ZAFAYCO)



Through an online series of webinars the youth democracy talks as part of the women and youth in democracy accountability hubs activities the platform is designed to facilitate discussions and exchanges among young people regarding their roles in political and civic engagement through e-learning sessions with young people who are affected by mis and dis information during electoral processes countering myths on registering to vote and voting as it is evident that young people are disproportionately under represented in the civic participation in Tanzania.

The Youth Democracy Talks e-learning session participants highlighted that the challenge of misinformation and disinformation, particularly during elections, poses a significant threat to the democratic processes in Tanzania, despite many young leaders and organizations being at the forefront of combating these issues through various initiatives aimed at promoting media literacy, civic engagement, and credible information dissemination.



There is a lot of uprising and changes that have been brought by the African youth who are leading the paths to hold governments accountable especially in South Africa such as how youth led a movement that led to access to quality education in our country and creating favorable conditions for citizens affected by mining areas

Yolokazi Mfuto
Development Practitioner and Political Analyst
Republic of South Africa



Reached over 150 participants from 6 Countries



85 PARTICIPANTS

The United Republic of Tanzania



30 PARTICIPANTS

The Republic of South Africa



15 PARTICIPANTS

Zanzibar



10 PARTICIPANTS

The Republic of Kenya



10 PARTICIPANTS

The Republic of Uganda



05 PARTICIPANTS

The Republic of Poland

Popular Topics

01

How can young people be better informed and to take up public office positions in Tanzania?

02

Learning from realities of the ground youth lead interventions to end mis and dis-information in electoral process in Tanzania

03

Role of young leaders to promote accountability in good governance – lessons from South Africa

04

How can we promote youth engagement in civic participations – lessons from Zanzibar



We provide civic engagement education to young women this accelerates young women's meaningful representation in public office in Tanzania through mentorship, youth accountability debates to increase civic awareness from grassroots to national level

Nyangubu Yessy

*Co-founder and Executive Director Her Uraia Clickers
The United Republic of Tanzania*





Lessons on the role of youth leaders in addressing mis and dis-information of elections in Tanzania

Digital Literacy

Among the general population, particularly young voters, majority of the youth raised that there are adequate provisions of digital literacy skills necessary to critically evaluate information found online. This gap makes it easier for false information to spread unchecked. Youth leaders emphasize the need for educational programs that enhance digital literacy, enabling voters to discern credible sources from unreliable ones.

Limited Access to Reliable Information

Youth leaders have pointed out that there is often a scarcity of reliable information regarding electoral processes and candidates limiting their rights to exercise democracy and leading citizens to rely on social media and other informal channels where misinformation thrives.

Influence of social media

Social media platforms play a dual role in elections while they can be used for positive engagement and mobilization, they also serve as breeding grounds for misinformation, the rapid spread of misleading narratives can undermine trust in the electoral process.

Resource Constraints,

Many youth-led organizations focused on combating misinformation operate with limited resources, which hampers their ability to conduct outreach campaigns effectively or develop comprehensive strategies against disinformation tactics employed by various actors during elections.

Power of working in partnerships, the youth outlined the need to

Many youth-led organizations focused on combating misinformation operate with limited resources, which hampers their ability to conduct outreach campaigns effectively or develop comprehensive strategies against disinformation tactics employed by various actors during elections.



The Tanzania Youth Coalition we engage young people in civic education through various media platforms but also co-work with local government authorities to ensure majority of the young people can be part of the upcoming local government elections where key government decisions start from

Lenin Kazoba
Executive Director
Tanzania Youth Coalition
The United Republic of Tanzania





Recommendations to end mis and dis information's in Elections in Tanzania.

Governments, Civil Society and Religious leaders to include young people as elections observers, and take part in national democratic debates, through existing youth structures (consortiums, national youth councils, and informal youth etc) governments and civil society working on good governance need to include the youth structures to educate them on democratic processes.

Promoting Media Literacy, as a crucial tool for empowering youth to critically evaluate information sources, initiatives that focus on enhancing media literacy include workshops, seminars, and online resources designed to educate and inform young people how to identify credible news outlets and discern factual information from falsehoods.

Embracing the use of Digital platforms that play a pivotal role in information dissemination through:

- **Fact-checking Platforms:** Developing online platforms that provide verified information can help combat the spread of false narratives during elections. These platforms can serve as reliable resources for voters seeking accurate data about candidates and electoral processes.
- **Social Media Campaigns:** Utilizing social media effectively allows youth organizations to reach a broader audience with messages promoting accurate information about elections. Campaigns can include infographics, videos, and interactive content that engage users while educating them about the importance of verifying sources before sharing information.



We need to embrace technology to curb mis and dis-information in elections periods not only in Tanzania but across the world currently we at Action for Democratic Governance (A4DG) Tanzania are working to ensure that there is an end of fake news that is mostly spread during elections. Process

Selemani Abdul Makwita - Executive Director Action for Democratic Governance (A4DG) The United Republic of Tanzania



Promoting Partnerships to Advocate for Accountability matters, partnerships between youth organizations, government bodies, civil society groups, and international partners is essential for creating a comprehensive approach against misinformation:

Workshops/ Trainings with Journalists: Training sessions that bring together young journalists with experienced professionals can enhance reporting standards across media outlets in Tanzania.

Women Democracy Talks

Women's role to address Hate Speech in Political Processes in Tanzania

Hate speech against women is a pervasive issue that manifests in various forms, particularly in online environments. This type of speech includes derogatory comments, threats, and expressions that incite hatred based on gender. The rise of digital platforms has exacerbated this problem, creating spaces where such speech can proliferate with relative anonymity



We need to speak out against hate speech targeted to women that leads to exploitation, abuse from online to offline and enhance monitoring and accurate data tracking and collection mechanisms on violence targeted to women in politics

Rahma Mwita - Executive Director
Open Youth Opportunities (OYO) and Shadow Youth Leader ACT Wazalendo, The United Republic of Tanzania



The Women in democracy talks e-learning sessions in webinar formats themed

'Women's role to address hate speech in the Political Processes in Tanzania' highlighted the challenges that women face in democratic processes, governance, and political participation while promoting strategies for enhancing women's involvement and representation the discussions featured experts, activists, policymakers, and scholars who shared insights and experiences related to women's rights, gender equality, and democratic governance which fostered a leadership drive outlook to women ahead of the local government elections in November 2024 and the general elections in 2025 in the country while establishing a broader network of women democracy champions in Tanzania under Imara Leadership Initiative (ILI).

Reached over 95 participants from 4 Countries



66 PARTICIPANTS

The United Republic of Tanzania



20 PARTICIPANTS

The Republic of Kenya



05 PARTICIPANTS

The Republic of Namibia



04 PARTICIPANTS

The Republic of Poland



Hate speech targeted to women in public offices has many surrounding issues of concerns from racial to tribal discrimination, to some women self doubting their leadership capabilities - this needs to change so as we can reduce misogyny in our societies.

*Dr. Victoria Lihiru (PhD) Academician
Researcher and Governance Expert, The United
Republic of Tanzania*



Popular Topics

01

Role of men to tackle online hate speech targeted to women leaders in Tanzania

02

Addressing early warning signs of gender-targeted violence to women, lessons from Siasa place interventions in Kenya

03

Identifying Gender-sensitive indicators of electoral violence – effects to women leaders

04

Role of Telecommunications companies to address Hate Speech to women leaders



Lessons on the role of youth leaders in addressing mis and dis-information of elections in Tanzania

Digital Literacy

among the general population, particularly young voters, majority of the youth raised that there are adequate provisions of digital literacy skills necessary to critically evaluate information found online. This gap makes it easier for false information to spread unchecked. Youth leaders emphasize the need for educational programs that enhance digital literacy, enabling voters to discern credible sources from unreliable ones.

Limited Access to Reliable Information

youth leaders have pointed out that there is often a scarcity of reliable information regarding electoral processes and candidates limiting their rights to exercise democracy and leading citizens to rely on social media and other informal channels where misinformation thrives.

Influence of social media

social media platforms play a dual role in elections while they can be used for positive engagement and mobilization, they also serve as breeding grounds for misinformation, the rapid spread of misleading narratives can undermine trust in the electoral process



Youth in Siasa Learning Session

Power of Youth Accountability Interventions –Accelerating Democracy Actions in Political Spaces

The Youth in Siasa (Politics) session ahead of the local government elections and the general elections Tanzanian youths have been urged to actively participate by contesting for leadership roles and taking part to vote as part of exercising their civic rights.

Thematic focus

Political accountability

Refers to the mechanisms and processes through which elected officials and government institutions are held responsible for their actions, decisions, and policies.

Civic engagement

Refers to the active participation of individuals in the political, social, and community life of their country or society. It involves taking part in actions that influence the way society operates, either through formal or informal activities. Civic engagement is essential for a healthy democracy,

Youth and Democracy

Youth are not only the future of democracy but also its present. By engaging in political processes, advocating for social justice, and utilizing modern technologies, young people shape the direction of democratic societies.



With Half of the #Tanzania's populations being youth its critical for young people to aim for atleast 50% representation among candidates in the upcoming elections. We as youth should not only vote but also rub for office and take part in decision making- When youth actively participate in local governance , they not only contribute to more dynamic and inclusive decision-making but also cultivate a sense of responsibility and ownership of their community's future".

Ms.Jokate Urban Mwegelo, the Secretary General of the Chama Cha Mapinduzi Youth wing (UVCCM).

The session laid the foundation of learning on the strategies on how to advocate for political accountability in the civic space in Tanzania, by integrating youth into WYDE Accountability Hubs to address immediate infringement of democratic matters but also fostering a generation of leaders who will ensure promotion od democracy efforts in the country.



Lessons on the role of youth to promote accountability and accelerate actions in Political Spaces

The role of youth in promoting accountability and accelerating actions in political spaces is crucial for fostering good governance, transparency, and democratic progress. Young people can be powerful catalysts for change, pushing for reforms that better reflect the needs of society, key lessons on how youth can contribute to these goals in Tanzania:

Active Participation in Elections and Political Processes

Voting: Youth can promote accountability by actively participating in elections, ensuring that they make informed decisions about candidates who align with their values and priorities. Their involvement in the democratic process helps ensure that elected officials are responsive to the needs of all citizens.

Voter Education:

Through campaigns and initiatives, youth can help educate fellow citizens about their rights and responsibilities, ensuring a well-informed electorate that demands accountability from its leaders.



Running for Office and encouraging more young people to run for political office allows for better representation of their interests. By participating in leadership roles, youth can influence decision-making and hold others accountable for their actions.

Fredrick Fussi
International Republic Institute, Tanzania





Engagement in Civil Society and Advocacy

Youth-led Organization play an important role by advocating for political accountability and social justice. Including influencing policy advocacy through open public forums, seminars, and debates, young people can raise awareness about specific political issues that require reform and they can engage policymakers through petitions, lobbying, and other forms of direct communication.

Promoting Transparency and Anti-Corruption Initiatives

Whistleblowing and Reporting: Youth can take the initiative to expose corruption, misuse of public funds, or unethical practices in the political realm. Digital platforms have made it easier for young people to report misconduct, making their actions more visible and encouraging a culture of transparency.

Support for Transparency Initiatives: Young people can push for and support policies that promote openness in government activities. This includes advocating for open data initiatives, transparency in public procurement processes, and ensuring that government spending is monitored effectively.

Leveraging Digital Tools for Political Engagement

Social Media Campaigns: In today's digital age, youth in Tanzania are harnessing the use of social media platforms to raise awareness of issues, promote accountability, and mobilize others. Social media is a powerful tool for connecting young people across the country and amplifying their voices on matters such as corruption, governance, and policy reform.



Online Petitions and Movements through digital platforms also allow youth to organize online petitions, engage in virtual protests, and promote accountability measures. Youth can advocate for change on a wide range

*Brian Chaggu - Research Consultant
Imara Leadership Initiative, Tanzania*



Mentorship and Capacity Building:

Creating platforms for mentorship, leadership training, and skills development can help build a strong generation of young leaders who are capable of driving political reforms. These young leaders can hold governments accountable and inspire others to take action.

Youth Leadership in Local Governance:

Encouraging youth participation in local governance structures such as councils, school boards, and community organizations helps create a more accountable and responsive political system at the grassroots level.

Monitoring and Evaluation:

Youth can establish independent bodies or work with existing institutions to monitor government actions and evaluate the effectiveness of public services. This can include assessing the implementation of public projects, tracking government budgets, and ensuring that resources are used as intended.

Youth as Electoral Observers:

Young people can participate as election observers, helping to ensure free and fair elections. By doing so, they contribute to maintaining the integrity of the electoral process and holding electoral bodies accountable.





Women in Siasa Learning Session

Navigating the Challenges – Addressing the Impacts of Gender-Based Violence on Women’s Political Participation

Gender-based violence (GBV) is a significant barrier to women’s political participation in Tanzania, as in many parts of the world. The impacts of GBV are multidimensional and deeply affect women’s ability to engage in political activities, from local governance to national decision-making. These challenges can be exacerbated by social, economic, cultural, and institutional factors that perpetuate inequality and hinder women’s empowerment.



Understanding Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Political Participation is critical in the context of women in Tanzania, these forms of violence are often rooted in patriarchal structures, cultural norms, and gender stereotypes that diminish women’s voices in both the public and private spheres’.

Dr. Naike Moshi,
CEO of Women in Management Africa





Cultural Norms and Social Stigma Towards Women in Leadership

Cultural attitudes toward women in leadership positions and societal expectations of women's roles as caregivers or homemakers can discourage political engagement. Women who try to defy these norms often face stigma or backlash, and those who are victims of GBV may be blamed or silenced. Cultural taboos surrounding the discussion of GBV may also prevent women from seeking help or reporting abuse, further hindering their political participation.

The Legal and Institutional Framework

Tanzania has made strides in improving gender equality in political representation. The country has affirmative action policies, such as reserved seats for women in Parliament, and has seen increasing numbers of women elected to political positions. However, the impact of GBV on these legal frameworks is often overlooked.

Weak Implementation of Gender-Based Violence Laws

While Tanzania has laws to combat GBV, enforcement remains a significant issue. Women often hesitate to report GBV due to fear of retaliation, societal pressure, or lack of trust in the justice system. This creates a cycle of impunity that undermines efforts to tackle GBV and its negative impacts on women's ability to participate in politics.

Political Parties and Institutional Support

Political parties often fail to create supportive environments for women who are victims of GBV. Instead of offering protection or resources for these women, political institutions may ignore or downplay the issue. Additionally, there are often limited programs to support the political empowerment of women who have experienced GBV, leaving them without the necessary tools to thrive in political spaces.



Awareness and Education: Public awareness campaigns are essential for changing attitudes towards GBV and promoting gender equality in politics. By educating communities on the negative impacts of GBV on women’s rights and their political participation, societal norms can be shifted. Encouraging men and boys to actively engage in gender equality initiatives is also key to fostering a more supportive environment.

Strengthening Legal Protections and Accountability: A stronger focus on enforcing GBV laws is critical to providing women with the protection they need. Creating an accessible and effective legal system for survivors of GBV will encourage more women to report abuse and seek redress. Accountability mechanisms must be established to hold perpetrators of GBV accountable, including political figures or institutions that perpetuate violence or fail to act on it.



Support Systems and Safe Spaces for women engaged in politics is vital, political parties should create mentorship and support programs that provide women with the resources, training, and protection they need to thrive in political roles includes creating safe environments where women can report abuse without fear of retribution

Kennedy Mmari
CEO of Serengeti Bytes , Tanzania



Gender-Sensitive Political Practices: Political parties should adopt gender-sensitive policies, such as internal harassment protocols, leadership training for women, and strategies to empower women in political decision-making. Creating a more inclusive and supportive political environment can mitigate the effects of GBV, ensuring that women feel safe and valued in the political sphere.

Imara

Leadership Initiative




CONTACT US

P.O Box 78071
Dar es Salaam Tanzania

 info@imaraleadershipinitiative.org

 www.imaraleadershipinitiative.org

    @ImaraLeadershipInitiative

Supported by

