RISING GBV CASES AMID COVID-19
Hello and on behalf of Foundation for Civil Society I welcome you again to our third edition of the HABARI JAMII bulletin that highlights the incredible work of the civil society and community in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

I would like to thank civil society actors, communities and all our partners for their great and tireless work as well as support in combating COVID-19. This news bulletin puts a close eye on Gender based Violence (GBV) during the outbreak of COVID-19. We strongly believe that staying at home and having children out of school should bring family unity and stability in our communities, as opposed to escalating occurrences of GBV. In a snapshot survey that we carried out with our grantees in May 2020, more than half (55%) of our respondents who were from 17 regions in the country reported observing increased cases of GBV. This, despite being a rapid, limited sample opinion survey produces results that are consistent with a lot of what has been reported in larger studies carried out in many other countries.

This bulletin provides information on various efforts done to keep women and girls safe during the pandemic. A group of 32 civil society organizations, under the coordination of WILDAF Tanzania came together and put forth a position statement on the rising GBV cases amid COVID-19. Their work identified several gaps and led to critical recommendations in combating GBV during the pandemic. We hope that these efforts will be an inspiration to many more actors to contribute towards managing the risk of surging occurrences of GBV especially during the coronavirus crisis.

I hope these stories will continue to inspire us all to move together and work tirelessly towards making our communities safer.

Happy reading!
Members of the Coalition against Gender based Violence (MKUKI) in collaboration with members of Data Advocacy-Working group Two (DDA WG2), both working under the coordination of WILDAF Tanzania have come to gather evidence on the situation of gender-based violence has become rampant in this time of the COVID-19 crisis.

While MKUKI and WG2 could not immediately collate official GBV data, emerging reports from various stakeholders in the country pointed to the fact that GBV incidents were intensifying. Understanding this from the context of other countries, according to a UN report released in April this year, in France, Argentina, Cyprus and Singapore incidents of domestic violence have increased by 30%, 25%, 30% and 33% respectively. Such evidences led the group to the conclusion that Tanzania is not likely to be an exception.

Before the pandemic, it was estimated that, in Tanzania, one in three women will experience violence during their lifetimes. Many of these women are now trapped in their homes with their abusers. A recent report from MKUKI members has revealed incidents of FGM, rape and rising gender-based abuses in digital spaces, which are believed to point to rising trends of GBV in the country during the pandemic.

Despite the notable efforts that have been put in place by the government, it is imperative to highlight some of the areas which need strategic interventions in fighting against GBV amid COVID-19. DDA WG2 and MKUKI have identified several gaps which need to be addressed.

1. Purchasing power is quickly going down especially among women who occupy almost 70% of the jobs in the hospitality as well as the informal sector. The National Response plan is silent on how to help women losing jobs and those doing informal businesses.

2. Insufficient mechanisms for information access and dissemination on GBV within COVID 19 pandemic especially among marginalized populations who do not possess smart phones, TV and radios

3. Inadequate awareness on GBV and COVID 19 among communities, while CSOs are affected by long processes of securing permission to undertake such awareness programs which would have complimented the government’s efforts.
4. There is no explicit ink and working relationship between MTAKUWA and the newly established National Task Force on COVID-19 at each LGA and lower levels of government. This would foster the timely identification and resolution of GBV cases

**Recommendations**

1. The Government through the Ministry of Health Community Development Gender, Elderly and Children and other relevant ministries should propound gender-responsive economic and social policies or guidelines placing women lives at the heart of the pandemic response and recovery plans.

2. In order to avoid or minimize layoffs in sectors where women are a large proportion of workers during covid-19 and for the purpose of deterring economically perpetrated GBV, relevant firms should have adequate access to credit, loans, and grants so they can retain the female work force.

3. The national Response plan should realign COVID 19 prevention efforts and services with strategies against GBV to respond to also violence against women

4. The Central Government direct LGAs to designate safe and well-resourced shelters and reporting centers where victims of GBV/VAWC can be accommodated and report abuse incidences without alerting perpetrators.

5. LGAs make relevant by-laws against GBV and create institutions to curb GBV amid COVID-19

6. The Ministry of Health, PO RALG and LGAs deliberately collaborate with CSOs to provide Mass Education on evident alarming rate of GBV and related social economic impact of COVID-19 in society as well as offer the necessary support to victims of GBV and survivors of COVID-19 against stigma.

7. The Government through the Ministry of Health Community Development Gender, Elderly and Children and the Legislature prepare a legal procedure for strengthening social accountability against GBV.

8. The Government through the Ministry of Health Community Development Gender, Elderly, The President’s Office-Regional Administration and Local Governments (PO-RALG) should collaborate with LGAs and MTAKUWA committees to establish and run Mobile GBV responses to supplement the already functioning Gender desks and social welfare departments at all levels.

9. LGAs and Lower levels of Governments should with an immediate possible time establish suggestion boxes for citizens to freely report on GBV incidents.

10. Tanzania should ratify, domesticate and implement international and Regional instruments related to promotion of gender rights and fight against GBV.
UMIVITA: SIGN-VIDEO COMMUNICATION PROVING EFFECTIVE DURING COVID-19.

Umoja wa Miradi kwa Viziwi Tanzania (UMIVITA) or the Union of Projects for Deaf People in Tanzania is an NGO providing advocacy and support services for young deaf people.

As the world continues to break down communication barriers, focusing on the accessibility of emergency services available to deaf people, UMIVITA is providing the deaf community with sign language videos demonstrating the right ways to protect themselves from COVID-19.

Currently the organization has reached over 350 people from 2 district councils of Iringa CBD and Kilolo in Iringa region.

UMIVITA also managed to distribute to deaf people 63 CDs with the short videos and 210 posters, in addition to sharing information with over 100 deaf people in their network’s WhatsApp groups.

UMIVITA is working towards achieving inclusion in the two districts’ COVID-19 response. Their objective is to keep all members of the community protected, regardless of the physical barriers they face, and this includes people with impaired hearing.

YES TANZANIA CONNECTING YOUNG GIRLS AND HEALTH EXPERTS ONLINE!

YES TANZANIA is a youth led organization in Mbeya region with a focus on improving the health and wellbeing of young people, promote democracy and good governance and also reduction of unemployment level among young people. On account of their focus amidst COVID-19, the organization’s interventions were directed to the effects of COVID-19 on the youth especially on matters concerning protection of sexual and reproductive health rights.

In their recent telephonic survey with 6 health care providers and 30 young people, YES Tanzania realized a number of issues through the following findings:

- Women and girls are more probable to face sexual abuse during COVID-19 due to limited movement.
- Women fear to go to health facilities to acquire medical help i.e. contraceptives pills and information regarding sexual health education due to fear of contracting COVID-19.

Consequentially, in partnership with Marie Stopes, the organization decided to employ awareness raising through WhatsApp group calls that link girls to medical health experts so that they can easily acquire sexual health services amidst the corona pandemic. This initiative reached youth in 9 wards of Mbeya City Council and Mbeya District Council including CCM, Ilimba, Iyela, Bonde la Songwe, Utengule, Usongwe, Igamba, Mlangali and Inyala.

Furthermore, the organization has used online meetings and conference calls to reach young people with information on safe health conducts and sexual rights education in relationship to the coronavirus outbreak.

“With the pandemic we are looking forward to sending an alarming message on the situation of increased rape cases, unwanted pregnancies and school dropouts projected to happen. We are urging other organizations to join hands and enact solutions together” explained YES Tanzania’s Programs Officer, Navina Mutabazi.
The HUHESO Foundation, located in Kahama District in the region of Shinyanga have been able to donate some equipment and items that are worth 4 million TZS to the city council of Kahama to aid in the fight against the corona virus. They donated the items on June 1st 2020 to the Kahama District Chief, Anamringi Macha, which consisted of 40 hand washing buckets, 10 litters of hand sanitizers, 8 boxes of soap and 150 masks. 

The Executive Director of HUHESO Mr. Juma Mwesigwa stated “these items are donated to show that we appreciate government efforts to fight this virus and we join hands in this fight”

HUHESO were able to donate these items because of the funding they had received from Foundation for Civil Society for their project named, Baki Salama which is aimed at raising awareness to the District Health Committee along with the MTAKUWWA Committee that is more focused on the women and children groups to find out how they are affected with the corona virus. This project is being implemented in 5 different wards; Zongomela, Kahama mji, Majengo, Nyasubi and Malunga.
MSICHANA INITIATIVE started a campaign called KORONA ISIWE KIKWAZO. This campaign was implemented to educate the community about the importance of protecting girls from Gender based Violence such as child pregnancies and marriage, rape and FGM, especially in these trying times where the corona virus has run rampant in the society.

The organization has been providing knowledge in the form of videos and posters through social media so as to have wider reach in the country in a short amount of time. Information shared include a toll-free number (116) used to report any Gender based Violence.

This campaign was inspired after working with a women’s organization called MIMUTIE in Loliondo. MIMUTIE has documented the effects of the virus to women after 10 students from primary and secondary schools became pregnant and others got married in Arusha region, they also saw a rise in FGM during this time in Mara region in the District of Tarime.

“The community as a whole should unite our strength as one to protect children, especially girls and not let corona be an obstacle for them to achieve their dreams in their education” Sarah Beda- Communication Officer, Msichana Initiative

ONUS ON GENDER BASED VIOLENCE IN THE MIDST OF COVID-19

HUDEFO and jielimishekwanza are the founders of adaptation hub that came up with innovative ways to utilize everyday tools such as WhatsApp to conduct training sessions to increase COVID-19 awareness to the community.

They invited trainers from other African countries to take part in these sessions and catered to different members from different parts of Tanzania. And due to high demand from different universities, CSOs, youths and environmental NGOs, they created 2 WhatsApp groups with over 450 participants.

They have used these groups to provide information as well as Zoom meetings to discuss topics such as; “Raising a climate change conscious generation”, “effects of COVID-19 on SDGs”, “Taking care of COVID-19 patients at home”, and “Human assault to natural resources in relation to COVID-19”.

The organizations have initiated challenges to bring more awareness in the communities. One such challenge is the planting tree challenge where people from different regions have planted trees and shared their pictures in the groups to prove their engagement and participation.

Their work showcases the importance of sharing information between multiple actors, and learning from initiatives implemented both locally and internationally.

More on this work can be viewed on Instagram pages @adaptationhubtz or @humandignity_environment.
JECA is a community-based, non-governmental organization that works with local communities in nine villages/shehias surrounding Jozani Chwaka Bay National Park. JECA implemented their own project to combat the COVID-19 pandemic.

The organization provided education on the virus to members of 9 villages in their communities along with donating 35 washing buckets, 9 dozen sanitizers that can be used to fight the spread of the virus at strategic areas, especially large gatherings. They also donated 40 litres of Dettol to 8 clinics. They implemented their work in the Central District and in the Southern District where they had more experience and good working relationships with the community.

The JECA secretary, Mr. Awesu Ramadhan said that the work that they are doing is vital because they cater to very remote areas that are not seen as a priority since they are not heavily populated and far apart from one another. He noted that this is no excuse to not spread awareness in those areas because a single infection can lead to multiple other cases and fatalities.
The Civil Society Directors Forum (CDF) launched a special edition of braille manuals to help people with disabilities acquire information on COVID-19 prevention. The forum strives to maximize societal welfare through civil society collaboration and action, and deems it necessary to safeguard the rights of marginalized and excluded people.

CDF worked with the Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC) and Tanzania Federation of Disabled Peoples’ Organizations (SHIVYAWATA) and the office of High Commissioner for Human Rights East Africa Regional Office to come up with 1,500 special edition braille manuals for people with visual impairment.

The official launch of the Braille books was on 20th May 2020. The coalition recognized the presence of a good deal of information on COVID-19 in our communities, but this distribution was addressing the short supply of tailored information targeting people with disabilities. The manuals present visually impaired groups with information on the coronavirus outbreak, how to prevent oneself and the right measures to take in case one develops symptoms.

The Braille manuals were consistent with the information blueprint by the Ministry of Health. These 1,500 copies of the special edition braille books are to be given directly to people with impaired vision through the Tanzania Federation of Disabled People’s Organizations.
Rafiki-SDO located in Shinyanga region have been doing their part to fight against the COVID-19 Pandemic since mid-March of 2020 in 16 wards of Shinyanga DC and 17 wards of Shinyanga MC. They capacitated 30 PEs and 111 EWs to sensitize and reach 6,963 Adolescent Girls and Young Women’s (AGYW) in small groups of 10-15 on how to be safe against corona viruses and adoption of protective measures like insisting on regular hand washing, use of sanitizers, wearing face masks, maintaining social-distancing and avoid overcrowding when serving beneficiaries and communities. Rafiki-SDO distributed 1,044 soaps, 400 hand tissue packs, 236 sanitizer bottles, 454 masks and 227 buckets to Peer educators (PEs) and Empowerment Workers (EWs), the materials donated and distributed came to a worth of TZS 12,000,000.

Their Fight against COVID-19 and AIDS free activities have reached a total of 6,963 (AGYWs) and a 40,000 total estimated general population. Sensitization of (AGYW) is still an ongoing activity conducted via small groups of 10-15 (AGYWs) served by (PEs) and (EWs). Through their behavioral change campaign, Rafiki-SDO have continued to educate (AGYWs) and the community to deal with the threat of COVID-19 pandemic. Also, Rafiki-SDO fighting AIDS and economic hardship of the Key and vulnerable population (KVPs) that are likely to be affected with COVID-19 in their groups of saving and loans for Income Generating activities(IGA).

In fight against GBV cases during COVID-19, Rafiki-SDO strengthen the concern of self-isolation and social distancing to (AGYW) and community member by insisting positive perception and not taken as stigma and discrimination.
Google Apps Training

The training was focused on empowering staff to use Google Apps especially during this period where FCS staff are working from home. We looked at the use of Google Docs, Sheets, Slides and Google Calendar which are all meant to make teams work more collaboratively, even when they are working remotely.

Google Docs and Google Sheets

Google Docs and Google Sheets are tools we tend to use every day. They allow you to create and edit text documents and spreadsheets right in your browser. Import your documents to make them instantly editable, including Microsoft Word, Excel, and PDF files. As of February 2018, you can collaborate and comment on Microsoft Office files without it having to automatically convert to Google's format.

You can also export to common third-party formats. This makes it easy to collaborate with other individuals or companies and send files back and forth, without ever needing to install or purchase any additional software.

One of the top features of Google Docs and Google Sheets is the real-time commenting and unlimited versions. Previous versions are kept indefinitely and they don’t count towards your storage. This makes it super easy to track changes made to a document or undo a mistake. Sharing documents with your co-workers or other individuals is also incredibly easy.

Google Calendar

We looked into the details on how we can use Google Calendar for our different events at FCS. Many of us rely on scheduling calls with clients and setting due dates and reminders for important projects. Google Calendar can help you keep your schedule organized.

One of the great things about using Google Calendar in G-Suite is the ability to create multiple calendars that are accessible to everyone in your company (or even a subset of users). For example, you might want a group calendar for events like team holidays and regular meetings. Having all your employees attached to the same organization makes tasks like these even easier. Another calendar maybe created for civil society events and this can be shared well in advance, in the form of a quarterly event calendar or an annual calendar to help other stakeholders also better plan their schedules.

The importance of utilizing such features was further emphasized for enhanced levels of planning monthly, quarterly and annual events; improve the way we work and collaborate at FCS.
As the coronavirus outbreak continues to tear down economies and dismantling social welfare, countries are navigating to understand, adapt and select right policies that will help control the outbreak and restore economies.

For the civil society community in Tanzania, Policy Forum, a network of over 70 NGOs is addressing COVID-19 from a policy perspective. The network strives to increase informed civil society participation in decisions and actions that determine how policies affect ordinary Tanzanians, particularly the most disadvantaged.

Through its ‘Local Governance Working Group’, the network formulated a task force that conducted an analysis on how COVID-19 has impacted people of low-income and how the local government is intervening for those people. After the analysis, the network released a declaration that contained findings from their analysis as well as recommendations.

**FINDINGS:**
- Procedures to the access and dissemination of information on COVID-19 to the public are not sufficient and therefore causes dilemma to people in rural areas that can’t access TVs, radios and smart phones.
- The access and dissemination of protective equipments i.e. face masks and sanitizers are inadequate in some areas.
- Health threatening environments for medical practitioners due to lack of personal protective equipments in health care centers.
- Absence of emergency incentives from the central government that would enable local government authorities to render services to the public swiftly especially marginalized groups like people with disabilities and children.

**SUGGESTED INTERVENTIONS:**
- Local governments to make by-laws to govern hygienic practices in the communities as well as to impinge the notion of self-awareness on COVID-19 a more personal issue rather than a leadership issue.
- Local government authorities to extend collaboration hands with other stakeholders in their areas to create solutions and awareness to the public on COVID-19.
- The central government should direct incentives to local government to curb interventions on COVID-19 in societies.
In March this year, a group of young Tanzanian innovators came together to join the fight against COVID-19 alongside a team from Ireland. These young innovators volunteer their time and resources to produce 3D-printed Personal Protective Equipments (PPEs) in order to protect our frontline medical workers who are at higher risk of coronavirus infection in medical centers. This initiative is supported by Robotech Labs and the Tanzania Makers Community.

They collect, vet and share open-source 3D printing technologies for use in Tanzania. They also study hospital and quarantine center needs so that the maker community can respond using an innovative platform.

They have put together, built and distributed a great number of PPE’s to healthcare workers in various areas and regions in the country including face shields, ventilator splitters & connectors.

“We have reached an estimated number of 2000+ printed 3D PPEs with a steady demand from hospitals requesting for more. We come from various organizations including DIT Design Studio, Bits & Bytes, Stic Labs, Uhuru Labs and Robotech Labs namely. The beauty of this group is how we work and communicate together by working on different variants of an existing PPE and modify it for use based on the area and condition of deployment as well as an understanding of the needs from healthcare workers themselves.” Said Shaukatali Hussein. Mr. Hussein used his Robotech to produce some of the PPEs and got the design and medical approval for the PPEs so the other makers won’t have to waste time with design research and medical approval.

The group created a form to identify and map makers with access to 3D printers in the country. Upon gathering the information, they created an SMS platform linking hospitals to the closest maker spaces so that they can place their orders for face shields and get them supplied for free.

Contact the following members for more information on how you can help the cause:

Simon Mtabazi (Mtabazi@hotmail.com)
Shaukatali Hussein (shaukat@roboTech.co.tz)
Leylah Karaha (leylah712@gmail.com)
The Babawatoto Centre for children and youth helps marginalized children, youth and communities to overcome challenges such as poverty, crime and diseases through visual, performing arts, sports vocational education and income generating activities. The Centre serves more than two hundred children per day.

The organization has come together with Remigius Sostenes from Remi & The Cocodo Band to produce a song that aims to entertain, while spreading awareness on COVID-19. The song is called “Mgeni (COVID-19)” [https://youtu.be/jDtUtVfV7L8w](https://youtu.be/jDtUtVfV7L8w). Members of the public are encouraged to give it a listen and share it with their friends and loved ones to let them know that this virus shouldn’t rob them of their smiles.

Babawatoto Organization also has come up with the campaign for Behavioral changes. COVID-19, NITAVUKA, the campaign’s name having being sponsored by Foundation for Civil Society (FCS) with the aim of reaching Boda boda and Bajaj drivers, food and market vendors.

The Project introduction was done at the Wanama Saccos on 28th of May at Manzese Darajani, Ubungo Municipality through a meeting with the government officials, beneficiaries and other stakeholders, with a goal of reaching out 1500 beneficiaries to behavioral changes in preventing the spread of Covid-19.

“It is the duty and responsibility of every individual to take care of your health, by making sure you are being liable to it. The Government is doing its best to create awareness on COVID-19 but you are responsible for your own health. Change begins with you” says Mrs Flora Masue, the Regional Social Worker Officer.
Tanzania Media Women Association (TAMWA) and Milele Zanzibar Foundation (MZF) from Zanzibar have been busy during this time to help the community fight against the coronavirus and have been successful in covering 4 districts in Unguja and 4 districts in Pemba. They have also worked with the Ministry of Health in Zanzibar and Community Education Department and reached 1,200 families in Unguja and 1,200 families in Pemba.

They organized 10 radio programs through local and national radio stations, released 5 articles, 2 press releases, 4 new stories through social media blogs, donated 4,564 masks, 2,080 bottles of hand soap, 650 bottles of sanitizers, and printed 10,000 brochures. They report spending a total of TZS 19 million.

Also, they have helped in creating short messages that have been aired on radio in the morning and evening, every day for the month of May.

The most inspiring accomplishment from their work was getting 200 women from 12 shehias to produce soap and masks.

These women were able to make a TZS 20,007,500 because their products were sold to Tanzania Media Women’s Association (TAMWA), Milele Zanzibar Foundation (MZF) and Save The Children in efforts to support their initiative.
Dr. Irfan Walji is an occupational physician and founder of HWE Consultants. He specializes in illnesses caused or exacerbated by work. He states that in his field of expertise he has found that “it is important to accommodate an employee with ailments to perform their tasks safely and effectively”, this in turn creates an environment that is more productive.

“Misinformation, and at times, information overload, as well as lack of granularity in information pertaining to the spread and prevention of COVID-19 are issues that employers and employees should consider if we are to keep the workplace safe,” says Dr. Walji.

Since offices and businesses have been instructed to open in Tanzania by the government, HWE consultants have developed a checklist which any employer can use to screen their employees for the virus prior to reporting to work” which is provided below:

SCREENING CHECKLIST FOR EMPLOYEES REPORTING TO WORK

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name:</th>
<th>Date:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symptoms or Signs in last 14 days</th>
<th>YES</th>
<th>NO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Do you have a fever? (Take temperature; fever is a temperature of 37.8°C or greater)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. New or worsening cough?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Shortness of breath? (Can’t complete sentences without taking a breath)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Sore throat?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Runny nose or sneezing?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Nasal congestion? (Stuffed/stuffy nose)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Difficulty swallowing?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Headache?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Recent loss of smell or taste?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Chest pain or tightness?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Diarrhea/constipation, diarrhea, abdominal pain?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Unexplained fatigue/malaise? (Lack of energy or extreme tiredness)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Chills?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Muscle aches or pains?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. Have you travelled or had close contact with anyone that has travelled in the past 14 days?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. Have you had close contact with anyone with a respiratory illness or a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19 in the last 14 days?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. Did you wear the required and/or recommended PPE according to the type of duties you were performing (e.g., goggles, gloves, mask and gown) when you had close contact with a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Interpretation of answers:

- If the individual answers NO to all questions from 1 through 16, they have passed and can enter the workplace. They should be told to self-monitor for symptoms.
- If the individual answers YES to any question from 1 through 15, they have not passed and cannot enter the workplace. They should go home to self-isolate immediately and should contact a primary care provider or local public health unit to discuss their symptoms and/or exposure and seek testing. Follow national protocols.
- If the individual answers YES to question 16 and YES to question 17, they have passed and can enter the workplace. They should be told to self-monitor for symptoms.
- If the individual answers YES to question 16 and NO to question 17, they have not passed and cannot enter the workplace. They should go home to self-isolate immediately and should contact a primary care provider or local public health unit to discuss their symptoms and/or exposure and seek testing.

Tanzania, like the rest of the world, has been hit and affected by the spreading global pandemic, COVID-19. In an attempt to contain the spread of this pandemic, the Government of Tanzania has temporarily closed all educational institutions. This closure has impacted 12.2 million students in primary and secondary schools, including those who were about to sit for their final national examinations. The schools’ closure is even more devastating in Tanzania as we are already experiencing low learning outcomes, high dropout rates, and low resilience.

Understanding that Members of Parliament (MPs) are now sitting to discuss and approve the 2020/21 national budget, we would like to register our plea to them to draw lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic and budget accordingly. In the education sector for instance, we anticipate the planning and budgeting to take into consideration that students are out of schools and lessons have been suspended. In such circumstances the focus of the budgeting session may be to look into ways and alternatives to facilitate distance learning. We hope budgeting for education technology that may offer alternative learning platforms, for instance, may be the education budget’s priority for now.

HakiElimu understands that resorting to education technology to fill the learning gap for now may be difficult as we are obviously not adequately prepared in many aspects. Access to technology in most households is a challenge and access to high bandwidth internet, or to smart phones is always a challenge even in towns and cities. However, the COVID-19 situation should awaken us to start thinking about alternative learning approaches and encourage us to come up with a comprehensive plan of investing in education technology.
The 2020/21 education budget should therefore initiate both short term and long-term comprehensive plans and budgets for putting in place learning facilities in schools that will facilitate remote learning and educational resources to mitigate loss of learning. Tanzania can learn from the experience of other countries that have now turned to distance learning as a means to mitigate lost learning time in schools.

HakiElimu recommends the following immediate and long run measures to address the learning gaps that have been created by the effects of COVID-19:

- Budgeting for funding TV, Radio and online education programs.
- Budgeting for subsidies for internet subscriptions for education related usages.
- Enhancing Public-private educational partnerships to address distance learning Challenges.
- Increasing basic education development budget allocation to intensify use of ICT in schools.
- Reduction of taxes on mobile phones and learning gadgets.
- Budgeting for ICT Training and public sensitization.

Although, no one can predict the trajectory of the COVID-19 pandemic, we hope that the global pandemic will end soon. While we emphasize on learning from the COVID-19 experience and planning accordingly, we also advise the government to prepare for the safe return of students to schools after the COVID-19 has ended. Therefore budgeting for students’ safe return to schools is vital and the following areas should be put into consideration:

- Budgeting for addressing acute shortage of classrooms for public primary and secondary schools.
- A call for an inclusive capitation grants formula that recognises specific financial needs for children with disabilities.
- Address the worsening shortage of teachers in Primary inclusive schools.

Dr. John Kalage
Executive Director - HakiElimu
RESPONSE TO COVID-19 BY ADDRESSING PSYCHO-SOCIAL SUPPORT TO CHILDREN AND YOUNG WOMEN.

BRIGHT JAMII initiative was founded as a civil society organization promoting positive parenting/care giving while incorporating projects for Early Childhood Development (ECD) and older children’s programs at homes and schools.

Bright Jamii Initiative is implementing its COVID-19 Response Strategy by providing important tips to enhance positive parenting during the COVID-19 pandemic. With the United Nations warning on consequences of COVID-19 to children and women, Bright Jamii Initiative has formed and are utilizing Twitter, Instagram, and WhatsApp-Parenting groups as platforms for spreading information on parenting during pandemic.

Their aim was to get parents to know how the pandemic health effects may necessarily affect children more than adults as reported by scientists and that its socio-economic repercussions may result into an unsafe environment for their children.

In support to adolescent wellbeing during the pandemic, Bright Jamii Initiative created adolescent-friendly online content to enable them cope with the present situation while engaging in education and personal development activities. This content that is accessible through an Instagram page (@bright__club) teaches adolescents and young women how to determine possible forms of violence against children and women at home and available pathways to report such violence.

The Initiative has also designed other information materials to educate parents and children on safety precautions to take at home in prevention of COVID-19, as well as on forms of acts of violence against women and children that may arise and how to go about resolving them.
The socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is rapidly unfolding. This has given rise to significant fiscal and external needs to people including those in the coastal town of Mtwara. Initiatives and the government are acting fast by putting in place measures to help contain and mitigate the spread of the disease; Mtwara Non-Government Organization Network is an NGO doing just that to help.

The network held a meeting with local government leaders, religious leaders and health practitioners to confer on a project about Covid-19 mitigation in Mtwara region.

Task forces were made by members from 8 wards of the Mtwara council including local government leaders, churches, mosques and hospitals. Each council built a task force of 8 representatives who will take upon the responsibility of rendering Covid-19 education to the public, letting the people know on safer ways to commute, work and continue to prevent further spread of the disease i.e. washing hands and maintaining social distancing. But also encourage the public to adherently observe national guidelines and policies on Covid-19.

MTWANGONET has moved a step further to employ the communications mediums to advocate for preventive measures of Covid-19 by sending information related messages to mobile numbers in the area. The use of posters, billboards and street flyers has also been an effective method of advocacy for the organization in their project. Through the intervention The Organization reached 515 Community members.

The organization has learned that medical professionals play a huge role in enforcing Covid-19 mitigation measures and this has been very useful for them in Mtwara. MTWANGONET is extending hands to medical and religious institutions for more effectual outcomes of their Covid-19 mitigation strategy.

MTWANGONET: A NETWORK WORKING WITH SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS FOR BETTER COVID-19 MITIGATION OUTCOMES.
FCS TRUST LIMITED (FTL) is a development agency specialized in the provision of advisory services in Tanzania that was established in June 2019 with the aim of furthering the sustainability of Foundation for Civil Society. FTL offers services not limited to fiscal agency, capacity building for organizations, grantees recruitment and management, monitoring and evaluation. FTL is also uniquely placed to create linkages and networks within the development sector with access to hundreds of grassroots organizations across a vast array of thematic areas both in Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar.

The FTL team has extensive experience and knowledge of the CSO sector from its evolution to its mushrooming phase in the early 2000s with team members who have played a key role in growing the sector. The team also has a proven track record of executing small, medium and large projects at local, regional and national levels.

OUR CLIENTS
· Civil Society Organizations
· Government Agencies
· Private Sector
· Private Foundations
· International organizations
· Development partners
· Academic Institutions
· Social Enterprises

WHAT WE DO
1. FISCAL AGENT
FCS TRUST LIMITED offers numerous services as part of this arrangement, it can supervise and control funds, making sure funds are disbursed to grantees as agreed and used strictly as per the agreement with donors; and that high quality narrative and financial reports are submitted on time. Moreover, we always emphasise on compliance to National laws and Regulations.

2. GRANTEES SELECTION AND GRANTS MANAGEMENT SERVICES
We are very keen in selecting organizations that will be able to implement well projects agreed with donors and achieve the targeted outcomes. This also includes visiting organizations to ensure projects are implemented well to achieve the expected outcomes. FTL under this section offers the following services:
· Development of grants management manuals
· Screening of applications
· Conduct Due Diligence
· Conduct Manage your Grants training
· Baseline surveys
· Monitoring of projects
· Evaluation of projects
· Audits

3. CAPACITY BUILDING
We understand capacity building for organizations is a continues process. Therefore, under this section we offer our services on the following areas:
· Financial management
· Monitoring and Evaluation
· Marketing for non-profit
· Fundraising
· Donor management
· Report writing
· Board Members training
· Local Resources Mobilization and Advocacy for change.

To procure our services please contact us at:
Martha Olotu : Chief Executive Officer
info@fcstrust.co.tz
Numbers; +255 222664890/2 or +255754005708
FCS TRUST LIMITED
7 Madai Crescent, Ada Estate, Plot No. 154
P.O.BOX 7192, Dar es salaam, Tanzania
FCS IS A CORRUPTION FREE ZONE

Foundation for civil society has zero tolerance policy on all forms of corruption, both internally and in all its operations and services as well as externally to all persons and entities associated with FCS.

If you have any cause for concern on any individual or entity associated with any employee or person working for FCS, please contact the Executive Director in full confidence and report the issue without delay or report the matter through our confidential email address below

whistleblower@thefoundation.or.tz

FCS has a robust whistle blowing policy whereby all whistle-blower who volunteer to give information are protected

Issued by
Foundation for Civil Society
P.O. Box 7192, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
7 Madai Crescent, Ada Estate, Plot No. 154
Telephone: +255 222664800-2
Mobile: +255 754 005 708
Website: www.thefoundation.or.tz

FOLLOW US THROUGH OUR SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

LIKE US ON
FCSTZ

FOLLOW US ON
@FCSTZ

SUBSCRIBE ON
FOUNDATION FOR CIVIL SOCIETY