

LINDI WOMEN PARALEGAL AID CENTRE (LIWOPAC)



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ANNUAL REPORT 2024

LIWOPAC LINDI.



AGA KHAN FOUNDATION

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ABBREVIATIONS

- **AZAKI** – Civil Society Organizations
- **CiC** – Children in Crossfire
- **CO-CREATE** – Collaborative Opportunities for Climate Resilience, Empowerment, and Transformation through Education
- **LIWOPAC** – Lindi Women Paralegal Aid Centre
- **LSF** – Legal Services Facility
- **PJT-MMMAM** – National Integrated Program for Early Childhood Care, Growth and Development
- **TANGO** – Tanzania Association of NGOs
- **TANLAP** – Tanzania Network of Legal Aid Providers
- **TAPANET** – Tanzania Paralegal Network
- **TECDEN** – Tanzania Early Childhood Development Network
- **SATF** – Social Action Trust Fund

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Lindi Women Paralegal Aid Centre (LIWOPAC), I would like to express my sincere gratitude to everyone who contributed to our achievements in 2024.

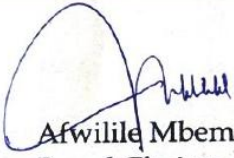
Special appreciation goes to the management team and staff for their dedication, commitment, and hard work in achieving the organization's goals. We also extend our heartfelt thanks to all our stakeholders, including the community at large, for their valuable cooperation and contributions toward the successful implementation of our programs.

We recognize that these achievements would not have been possible without your support and collaboration. LIWOPAC remains committed to advancing positive change within our communities, and we look forward to continued partnership in the years ahead.

We consider ourselves fortunate to have sustained ongoing projects across our areas of implementation. The project implementation team will continue to maintain close engagement and conduct regular visits to stakeholders in all districts.

We wish you all the best and look forward to working together again in the future.

With appreciation and gratitude,



Afwilile Mbembela
Board Chairperson
LIWOPAC

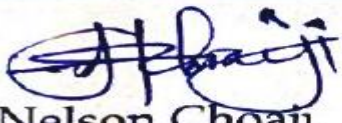
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

LIWOPAC extends its sincere appreciation to all donors and stakeholders who significantly contributed to the implementation of activities in 2024. Our heartfelt thanks go to the **Social Action Trust Fund (SATF)**, **Legal Services Facility (LSF)**, **The AgaKhan Foundation** and **TECDEN** for their financial and technical support throughout the year.

We further extend our gratitude to the **Regional Commissioner of Lindi Region, Hon. Zainab Telack**, the **Regional Administrative Secretary and her team**, all **District Commissioners, District Administrative Secretaries, Council Directors**, the **Regional Police Commander**, and the **District Security Committees**, particularly the **Gender Desks, Community Development Officers, Social Welfare Officers, Resident Magistrate's Court of Lindi**, district and ward courts and other development stakeholders for their invaluable support in implementing LIWOPAC's activities during 2024.

We highly appreciate the outstanding work and dedication demonstrated by **Legal Aid Providers, Community Development Officers and Social Welfare Officers** who devoted their time to ensuring the success of LIWOPAC's interventions. Their commitment has significantly contributed to improving the well-being of communities in Lindi Region and Tanzania at large.

Last but not least, LIWOPAC sincerely thanks all beneficiaries of the various projects implemented in 2024. The positive outcomes achieved aimed at improving beneficiaries' welfare through access to fundamental legal, social, and economic rights.



Nelson Choaji
Executive Director
LIWOPAC.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

It is with great Honor and pleasure that the Lindi Women Paralegal Aid Centre (LIWOPAC) presents its Annual Implementation Report for the year 2024. The year marked a period of consolidation and strengthening of efforts to contribute positively to the legal, social, and economic well-being of communities in Lindi Region.

In line with its Strategic Plan (2020–2025), LIWOPAC focused on the following priority areas in 2024:

- 1) Provision of legal aid services
- 2) Promotion and protection of children’s fundamental rights
- 3) Support to Most Vulnerable Children
- 4) Addressing gender-related issues
- 5) Climate Change and Environment Conservation
- 6) Strengthening financial management
- 7) Monitoring and evaluation of implemented activities

This report outlines key results achieved in each programmatic area, challenges encountered, and mitigation measures adopted. These achievements were realized through LIWOPAC commitment and the generous support of **SATF, LSF, The Agakhan Foundation, and TECDEN**, contributing to the advancement of justice in Lindi Region and Tanzania as a whole.

The report is intended to inform stakeholders—including government authorities, civil society organizations, development partners, and the general public about LIWOPAC contribution to sustainable legal and social development in Lindi Region. We extend our sincere appreciation to all partners whose collaboration made these achievements possible.

Overall, the implemented activities contributed to the achievement of **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 5, 10, and 16**, particularly in enhancing access to justice for women and children.

2.0 ORGANIZATIONAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Brief History of the Organization

Lindi Women Paralegal Aid Centre (LIWOPAC) is a non-governmental organization that provides legal aid services to communities, with a particular focus on women and children. The organization operates in Tanzania, with its headquarters located in Lindi Region.

LIWOPAC was registered in 2003 under the Societies Act of 1954 and granted Registration Certificate No. 11989. In 2008, the organization obtained a Certificate of Compliance No. 0760, confirming its legal recognition and authorization to operate by the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania. All legal aid services provided by LIWOPAC are offered free of charge to beneficiaries.

LIWOPAC implements various development projects with support from development partners, including:

- a) Provision of Legal aid services funded by the Legal Services Facility (LSF)
- b) Support to Most Vulnerable Children in education, health and child protection sectors funded by Social Action Trust Fund (SATF)
- c) Mtoto Kwanza project funded by TECDEN
- d) CO-CREATE project funded by The Agakhan Foundation through Restless Development Tanzania

2.2 Vision

LIWOPAC envisions a society that respects, protects and upholds the fundamental rights of women and children.

2.3 Mission

LIWOPAC aims to empower women and children in Lindi Region by providing legal aid services, capacity-building, and advocacy through transparent and accountable utilization of available resources.

3.0 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION

During the implementation of activities in 2024, LIWOPAC worked closely with various stakeholders from public institutions, the private sector and individuals to enhance access to justice within the community.

From January to December 2024, LIWOPAC collaborated with the Office of the Regional Commissioner – Lindi, all Local Government Authorities in Lindi Region and Newala District Council in Mtwara Region. Other key partners included the Office of the District Commissioner – Lindi, the Ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs, and the Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women, and Special Groups.

The organization also worked with private sector and civil society stakeholders, including **TANLAP, TAPANET, TANGO, The Agakhan Foundation, SATF, and LSF**, who played a vital role in supporting community development initiatives in Lindi Region and Tanzania at large.

4.0 GOVERNANCE

The LIWOPAC Board of Directors continued to provide oversight of the organization’s day-to-day operations throughout 2024. The Annual General Meeting approved the externally audited financial statements for the year 2024.

All Board meetings planned for 2024 were conducted in accordance with the organization’s annual calendar. In addition, weekly management meetings were held as scheduled to review daily operations, assess progress, address challenges and identify solutions related to project implementation.

5.0 PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION, RESULTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

In 2024, LIWOPAC implemented four (4) projects with diverse thematic focuses, as outlined below:

List of Projects Implemented in 2024

Project Title	Funder	Amount (TZS)	Implementation Period	Area of Implementation
Support to Most Vulnerable Children (SATF MVC Care and Support Program)	Social Action Trust Fund (SATF)	52,114,425.27	Jan 2024 – Dec 2024	Lindi DC, Newala DC, Nachingwea DC

Provision of Legal Aid Services	Legal Services Facility (LSF)	6,312,122.00	Jan 2024 – Dec 2024	Lindi Municipal Council
Mtoto Kwanza	CiC & TECDEN	27,722,885.73	Jan 2024 – Dec 2024	Six Councils of Lindi Region
Collaborative Opportunities for Climate Resilience, Empowerment, and Transformation through Education (CO-CREATE)	AgaKhan Foundation & Restless Development Tanzania	4,499,000.00	Apr 2024 – Mar 2025	Lindi Municipal Council

6.0 RESULTS OF IMPLEMENTED ACTIVITIES

6.1 Outcome 1: Legal Aid Services for Women and Children

6.1.1 Provision of Legal Aid Services

LIWOPAC successfully provided legal aid services to the community, enabling individuals to access justice and resolve various legal disputes. During 2024, the organization served a total of **96 clients (74 women and 22 men)**. The most commonly reported cases included marital and divorce disputes, land conflicts, and child maintenance issues.

6.1.2 Provision of Legal Education

In 2024, LIWOPAC implemented various legal education interventions targeting communities particularly women and children on laws and issues related to gender-based violence, marriage, land rights, child maintenance, inheritance and other legal matters. Through these legal education initiatives, LIWOPAC paralegals reached a total of **18,241 people (10,033 women and 8,208 men)** exceeding the target of 17,500 beneficiaries.

6.1.3 Rights Awareness through Radio Programs

During the reporting period, LIWOPAC conducted **22 radio programs** to educate the community on Legal issues, gender equality, responsive parenting, early childhood growth and development. Radio programming proved to be a highly effective outreach tool, enabling the organization to reach a large audience within a short time while minimizing operational costs. These programs also encouraged many community members especially women to seek legal assistance at LIWOPAC offices for mediation and dispute resolution.

6.2 Outcome 2: Gender Equality and Gender-Based Issues

LIWOPAC implemented various initiatives aimed at addressing gender-based discrimination, promoting gender equality, and supporting women and girls to claim and enjoy their rights. The following key activities were undertaken to achieve this outcome:

6.2.1 Commemoration of International Women's Day

In collaboration with the Lindi Municipal Council, LIWOPAC participated in the commemoration of International Women's Day by conducting community outreach activities and providing public legal education. At the municipal level, celebrations were held in Milola Ward, where women received education on women's rights, gender-based violence, entrepreneurship, and marriage-related legal issues. Prior to the main event, a Women's Conference was convened, officiated by the **Guest of Honour, Hon. Kassim Majaliwa (Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania)**, with the objective of discussing women's welfare and empowerment. A total of **325 participants (68 men and 257 women)** were reached at the municipal level.

At the regional level, celebrations were held in **Nachingwea District**, where LIWOPAC representatives from the Nachingwea Legal Aid Centre provided legal education at the paralegal exhibition booth. Through this engagement, **870 people (95 men and 775 women)** were reached with gender and legal awareness messages.

6.2.2 Participation in the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence

From 25 November to 10 December 2024, Tanzania observed the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence. During this period, LIWOPAC, in collaboration with the Regional Community Development Office, conducted awareness-raising activities in various areas of Lindi Municipal Council. Legal education was delivered in schools and community groups, reaching a total of **2,001 people (1,051 men and 950 women)**. This initiative also enhanced LIWOPAC's visibility within the wards reached and strengthened community trust in the organization's services.

6.2.3 Participation in Nane Nane Agricultural Exhibition – Ngongo

LIWOPAC participated in the 2024 Nane Nane Agricultural Exhibition for the Southern Zone, held at Ngongo Grounds, Lindi Municipal Council. The organization operated an exhibition booth to provide legal education on child maintenance, gender equality, and alternative dispute resolution to residents of Lindi and surrounding areas. A total of **105 visitors (40 men**

and 65 women) visited the LIWOPAC booth and received information about legal rights and organizational services.

6.3 Outcome 3: Promotion and Protection of Children's Fundamental Rights

LIWOPAC worked closely with communities to enhance awareness and enforcement of children's fundamental rights, with a focus on **education, health, and child protection interventions**.

6.3.1 Payment of School Fees and Related Support for Beneficiaries

During 2024, LIWOPAC supported **30 beneficiaries (13 males and 17 females)** by covering school and college fees, transportation costs, and living allowances for students enrolled at Masasi Folk Development College (FDC). This support was provided by SATF under the project namely SATF MVC Care and Support program.

6.3.2 Distribution of Scholastic Materials

Beneficiaries of **SATF MVC Care and Support program** received essential school supplies, including school uniforms, socks, shoes, textbooks, exercise books, and sanitary pads for female secondary school students. The project targeted **99 beneficiaries (56 males and 43 females)**, of whom **91 beneficiaries (50 males and 41 females)** from primary schools, secondary schools, and vocational training institutions were successfully reached.

Eight (8) beneficiaries (**6 males and 2 females**) were not reached due to school absenteeism and dropout without valid reasons. Additionally, **50 graduates (39 males and 11 females)** who completed vocational training at Masasi FDC on 6 February 2024 were provided with work tools to support self-employment.

6.3.3 Provision of Health Services and Nutrition Support

LIWOPAC conducted community sensitization on the importance of health insurance enrolment for parents and caregivers. As a result, **81 beneficiary households** were enrolled in the **Improved Community Health Fund (iCHF)** across Newala District Council, Lindi Municipal Council, Mtama District Council, and Nachingwea District Council. In addition, the organization promoted access to proper nutrition for children living with HIV. Through this initiative, **five (5) children** received nutritional support kits valued at **TZS 2,000,000** to meet their dietary needs. LIWOPAC also actively advocated for community participation in school feeding programs. Notably, **Nditi Village in Nachingwea District** allocated funds from its internal revenue to

support school feeding initiatives an important milestone in promoting child welfare at the grassroots level.

6.3.4 Commemoration of the Day of the African Child

The **Day of the African Child**, commemorated annually on **16 June**, was observed through joint efforts between LIWOPAC and the **Ruangwa District Administration** in **Chienjele Ward**. The event was attended by approximately **2,000 participants**, surpassing the initial target of 1,700. Community members received education on early childhood care and development, children's rights, and prevention of violence against children.

6.4 Outcome 4: Early Childhood Care, Growth, and Development (PJT-MMMAM)

6.4.1 Review Meetings on the Implementation of the PJT-MMMAM Program

In collaboration with the Lindi Regional Secretariat, LIWOPAC continued to support and strengthen the implementation of the National Integrated Program for Early Childhood Care, Growth, and Development (PJT-MMMAM). Through the Mtoto Kwanza (Child First) Project, the organization successfully facilitated **quarterly review meetings** to assess implementation progress and provide strategic direction. Discussions focused on four key sectors:

- a) Nutrition
- b) Health
- c) Child Protection and Safety
- d) Early Learning and Responsive Caregiving

During these meetings, stakeholders collectively advised the government to strengthen the provision of **free health services for children under five years of age** in order to improve access to quality healthcare. The meetings enhanced coordination, accountability, and shared ownership among implementing partners at the regional level.

6.4.2 Early Childhood Development Stakeholders' Coordination Meeting

LIWOPAC organized a stakeholders' coordination meeting on Early Childhood Development (ECD) with the objective of increasing awareness and strengthening collaboration among partners implementing ECD interventions. Key agenda discussed during the meeting were;

- a) Advocate for increased budget allocation for Early Childhood Development
- b) Promote community participation in ECD program implementation
- c) Enhance understanding of ECD concepts and practices among stakeholders

A total of **28 stakeholders (18 men and 10 women)** participated, against a target of 32 participants. Emphasis was placed on supporting regional efforts to improve food availability in public pre-primary schools and integrating ECD priorities into local development planning.

6.5 Use of Media and Social Platforms

6.5.1 Radio Programs

In response to advancements in communication technology, LIWOPAC continued to utilize media as a strategic tool for community outreach and access to justice.

During 2024, the organization conducted **eight (8) radio programs** aired through **Mashujaa FM** and **Ruangwa FM**. The programs addressed key topics including: Child protection and safety, Responsive parenting and Gender equality. Community members actively participated by calling in and contributing to discussions, demonstrating increased public engagement and awareness of legal and social issues.



Figure 1. LIWOPAC former Director (Cosma Bulu) provide child abuse reporting mechanism to audience at Ruangwa FM Radio, during African Day campaign.

6.5.2 Launch of the “ZungumzaNae” Campaign

LIWOPAC officially launched the “ZungumzaNae” Campaign in **May 2024** at its headquarters in



Figure 2. LIWOPAC team with shined photo during inauguration of “ZungumzaNae” Campaign conducted at organization main Office Lindi Municipal

Lindi Municipal Council. The campaign focuses on promoting **responsive caregiving** by raising community awareness on the importance of timely and appropriate responses to the needs of children under five years of age. The campaign also brought together stakeholders working in early childhood care and development to engage in in-depth discussions on best practices for supporting children and advocating for their rights when violated.

6.5.3 Coordination Meetings with ECD Implementing Stakeholders at Regional and Council Levels

In collaboration with the Office of the Regional Commissioner – Lindi, LIWOPAC conducted stakeholder mapping and identified approximately **16 organizations and institutions** providing child-focused services in Lindi Region. Identified stakeholders were actively engaged in discussions on children’s rights and jointly set implementation priorities. Some stakeholders committed financial contributions to support the implementation of the **PJT-MMMAM Program** coordinated by the Regional Secretariat demonstrating increased ownership and sustainability of the program.

6.6 Outcome 6: Climate Change and Environment Conservation

LIWOPAC through the project namely *Collaborative Opportunities for Climate Resilience, Empowerment and Transformation through Education (CO-CREATE)* implemented the program of Mangrove Restoration around Msinjahili Ward beach area in Lindi.

The establishment of Mangrove Nurseries and Management activities was organized to empower 20 youth with knowledge and skills in establishing and managing mangrove nurseries. This initiative was led by an Expert from the Tanzania Forest Services (TFS), aiming to strengthen the community’s role in environmental conservation and restoration efforts.

The primary objectives of the program were:

- To encourage youth participation in Mangrove restoration efforts for environmental sustainability
- To provide practical training on the techniques and processes involved in setting up and managing Mangrove nurseries.

The program was implemented by 20 youth from Msinjahili Ward who are actively involved in environmental conservation efforts and an expert from TFS, who facilitated the practical sessions.

ACTIVITIES PERFORMED

- Nursery Establishment Techniques: The practical session focused on the step-by-step process of establishing a mangrove nursery. Participants prepared seedbeds, planted seeds and learned about the maintenance of nurseries.
- Watering and Care Practices: Detailed instructions were given on the watering regimes and other care practices required to ensure the healthy growth of seedlings.
- Monitoring and Management: The training emphasized the importance of monitoring the growth of Mangrove seedlings and managing threats such as pests, diseases and unfavourable environmental conditions.

OUTCOMES OF THE PROGRAM

- The youth gained hands-on experience in Mangrove nursery establishment and Management.
- Increased awareness among the participants about the critical role of Mangroves in environmental conservation.



Figure 3. LIWOPAC youth team performed Mangrove restoration in process at Msinjahili Ward Lindi Municipal

6.7 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

From January to December 2024, LIWOPAC mobilized a total of **TZS 90,648,433** through implemented projects. These funds enabled the successful execution of planned activities outlined in the annual work plan. An **external financial audit** was conducted, and LIWOPAC received a **clean audit opinion**, confirming that expenditures were aligned with approved budgets and represented value for money.

6.8 MONITORING AND EVALUATION

LIWOPAC conducted regular **monitoring and evaluation (M&E)** activities across all project implementation areas to assess effectiveness and impact. Findings from M&E exercises informed program improvements and strengthened service delivery to beneficiaries, ensuring accountability, learning, and continuous improvement.

7.0 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Increased community awareness on **attendance at maternal health clinics** and **birth registration for newborns**. In collaboration with regional authorities, the program sensitized communities on the importance of **vitamin supplementation** and timely collection of birth certificates at health facilities.
- Strengthened engagement of both **men and women** in maternal and child health services through documented video and audio advocacy sessions.
- Contribution to **school feeding budget allocation** by village authorities. Three villages in **Nachingwea District** allocated internal funds to support annual school feeding programs. Validation visits were conducted to document best practices, which will be shared during regional review meetings.

8.0 CHALLENGES

- **School dropout and absenteeism** among some beneficiaries, attributed to peer influence and limited parental supervision.
- **Inefficiencies in data management systems**, particularly digital reporting platforms, leading to delays and reliance on manual (paper-based) reporting.

- **Heavy rainfall during the rainy season**, which damaged road infrastructure and limited community outreach activities.
- **Limited participation of some child-focused stakeholders** in supporting the implementation of the PJT-MMMAM Program, resulting in missed review meetings at council and ward levels.
- **Low participation of women in public meetings**. In response, LIWOPAC initiated collaboration with village leaders to mobilize women and introduced gender-disaggregated attendance registers to monitor participation levels.

9.0 LESSONS LEARNED

- **Strong stakeholder collaboration** enhances timely and effective service delivery to target populations. This was evident in the successful provision of legal aid services through partnerships with legal sector actors.
- **Use of radio programs** significantly increased community awareness of LIWOPAC's work and empowered community members to understand and claim their rights. Radio outreach through **Mashujaa FM** proved particularly effective in reaching a wide audience.