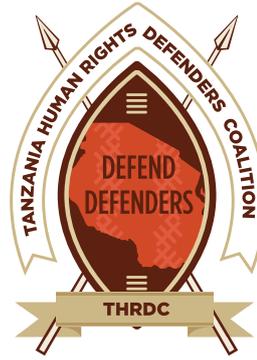


# TANZANIA HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS COALITION



**ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT  
January- December 2013**



**Advocacy**

**Protection**

**Capacity Building**

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## Abbreviations

<b>AGM</b>	Annual General meeting
<b>BOD</b>	Board of Directors
<b>CSOs</b>	Civil Societies Organizations
<b>CPT</b>	Committee for Project Journalists
<b>DIGP</b>	Deputy Inspector of General of Police Force
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>EHAHRDP</b>	Eastern and Horn of Africa Human Right Defenders Project
<b>FSS</b>	Financial Sustainability Strategy of the Coalition
<b>GA</b>	General Assembly
<b>HRDs</b>	Human Right Defenders
<b>HRNGOs</b>	Human Right Non Governmental Organizations
<b>LHRC</b>	Legal Human Right Coalition
<b>M&amp;E</b>	Monitoring and Evaluation
<b>MOAT</b>	Media Owners Association of Tanzania
<b>OD</b>	Organization Development
<b>OSIEA</b>	Open Society Initiatives for East Africa
<b>PTF</b>	Protection Trust Fund
<b>PI</b>	Protection International
<b>SOGI</b>	Sexual Orientation Gender Identity
<b>THRDC</b>	Tanzania Human Right Defenders Coalition
<b>TGNP-Mtandao</b>	- Tanzania Gender Network Program
<b>TPDF</b>	Tanzania People Defense Force
<b>UPR</b>	Universal Periodic Review
<b>UTPC</b>	Union for Tanzania Press Clubs
<b>UN</b>	United Nations

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC) is a non-governmental, non-partisan human rights organization which is registered under the Non-Governmental Act of 2002. The THRDCs-Coalition is comprised of both individual and organizational memberships. As of December 2013, the coalition had 100 members who are basically human rights defenders in Tanzania (HRDs.) Its membership and representation in terms of operation spread through designated zone offices/ coordination) all over the United Republic of Tanzania (Mainland and Zanzibar. The THRDC moved from the host organization the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) in October 2012, where it developed a five years Strategic Plan (SP) 2013-2017. The Coalition began implementation of the plan immediately after its official launch in January 2013; where it came up with a two years operational plan 2013-2014 for easy implementation. Its overall goal was and still is to ensure that human rights defenders carry out their essential function free from harm, repression, and in accordance with the 1998 UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

### 1.1 MAIN OBJECTIVES

The main interest of this coalition is to, inter alia, work towards enhanced security and protection of HRDs in the United Republic of Tanzania. It also intends to strengthen regional and international interventions to protect and promote rights and responsibilities of HRDs. The ultimate result of all these, as this coalition visualizes is to contribute towards creation of a safer working environment for HRDs. THRDC has been and still intends to work closely with different stakeholders including local, regional and international HRDs' organizations and coalitions; individual HRDs; development partners; United Nations; duty bearers and other relevant stakeholders.

### 1.2 VISION AND MISSION

THRDC envisages a free and secured working environment for Human Rights Defenders in Tanzania. **OUR MISSION:** THRDC strives to maximize the protection, respect and recognition of HRDs in Tanzania through, protection, capacity building and advocacy.

### 1.3 OUR VALUES

- Promote deep respect and empathy for defenders,
- Act in a very responsive, rapid, flexible manner,
- Result oriented organization with tangible impact ,
- Act with independence, creativity, impartiality and integrity ,
- Perform with dedication, professionalism, transparency and accountability,
- Develop participative and cooperative relations,
- Develop a continue learning environments for defenders.

### 1.4 THE OVERALL GOAL

The overall goal is to ensure that human rights defenders in the country are able to carry out their essential function free from harm and repression, in accordance with the 1998 UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders. Hence the overall goal for Coalition is to reduce risks that human rights defenders face as they promote and protect human rights. The following strategic objectives have been developed in furtherance of the overall goal:

- a) The legal and policy frameworks (and practice) addressing Human Rights Defenders' issues and CSOs networking improved- **ADVOCACY**
- b) Capacity of Media and Human Rights Defenders to effectively protect and address their rights improved. **CAPACITY BUILDING**
- c) Protection mechanisms established and accessed by HRDs at risk- **PROTECTION**
- d) An improved performance and sustainability of the Tanzania Human Rights Defenders' Coalition- **INSTITUTIONAL BUILDING**

## 2.0 THE WORKING FRAMEWORK OR PROGRAMS

HRDs in Tanzania began by identifying working areas, adopted it as main programs for the Secretariat to implement and thus, enable the Coalition realize its main goal and vision.

The working framework aims at giving detailed information specifically to direct people to perform the day to day tasks required in running the coalition for the coming five years. It derives its focus from the Coalition's Five Years Strategic Plan. The strategic plan identifies four areas to be implemented. These strategic areas are; Advocacy, Capacity Building, Protection and Institution Building.

### 2.1 OUTCOME ONE: The legal and policy frameworks (and practice) addressing the Human Rights Defenders' issues and CSOs networking improved (**ADVOCACY**)

HRDs have legal rights to be protected by national laws of their respective countries. HRDs deserve effective protection under national law when they react against or oppose, through peaceful means, acts or omissions attributable to violations of human rights. Tanzania is yet to ratify and implement some of the key international instruments which advocate for protection and recognition of HRDs in its local jurisdiction.

To achieve this, the Coalition as an umbrella body, has a primary role to bring together HRDs and to ensure they network among themselves. Another role is to bring different relevant stakeholders at international and national levels. To achieve aim one, THRDC planned to work towards accomplishing the following **OUTPUTS**:-

- 2.1.1 International advocacy for ratification and domestication of international human rights instruments.
- 2.1.2 Engage the parliament and the government for improvement and enactment of laws and policies for human rights defenders.
- 2.1.3 Advocacy for strengthening the capacity of law enforcers to address human rights defenders according to the law.
- 2.1.4 Improving HRDs solidarity and networking both at National and International levels.

## 2.1.1 Advocacy for Ratification and Domestication of International Human Rights Instruments

Tanzania is yet to ratify or implement some of the key international instruments which advocate for protection and recognition of HRDs in its local jurisdiction.

As such, THRDC-Coalition seeks to engage in international advocacy opportunities such as UPR processes, shadow reports, lodging complaints before international tribunals and others. The move is meant to enforce the government to comply with its international obligations including implementation of the principles contained in the 1998 UN Declaration on the Rights of *Human Rights Defenders*. Under this output the Coalition planned to do the following;

- Assist its members in monitoring the Implementation of the Universal Periodic Review- UPR in Tanzania by developing the capacity of HRDs involved in the process to synchronize efforts and build complementarily.
- Develop UPR Implementation monitoring and evaluation strategy for Tanzania human rights defenders/CSOs.
- To initiate dialogue and evaluate midterm situation on the implementation of UPR in Tanzania. A forum was to be arranged with relevant state actors in collaboration with HRDs to jointly assess what was in place and additional needs.
- Develop a model law for HRDs protection and recognition

However, in 2013, the THRDC failed to implement these activities due to financial constraint. Nevertheless, through desktop review, the Coalition found out that Tanzania underwent the first cycle of the UPR on 3rd October 2011. The State considered all 153 recommendations, accepted 107 in full, 13 in part and the remaining 33 were referred for further consideration or rejected. Thematic areas that Tanzania was reported on, and agreed by stakeholders include: the right to life, the right to equality and non-discrimination, rights of the child, health, human rights defenders, death penalty, right of persons with disabilities, torture, freedom of expression, the right to participate in public affairs, human trafficking, forced labor, access to justice, education, minorities and indigenous people, access to justice, and rights of refugees and migrant workers. The Coalition is still scouting for partners who can support the implementations of these activities.

## 2.1.2 Engage the parliament and the government for improvement and enactment of laws and policies for human rights defenders

HRDs have legal rights to be protected by national laws of their respective countries. Human rights defenders (HRDs) deserve effective protection under national law when they react against or oppose, through peaceful means, acts or omissions attributable to violations of human rights. This legislative protection is provided by the 1998 *Declaration on Human Rights Defenders*.

In 2013, the Coalition, conducted a needs assessment survey and managed to identify legal challenges facing HRDs in Tanzania. The current legal framework is comprised of draconian laws and policies which facilitate occurrences of human rights violations and therefore expose HRDs to danger. On the other hand, HRD is a new concept in Tanzania and as such most law makers are not aware of it while as some of them willfully neglect to accept the presence of HRDs in the country.

The above reason makes defenders work very complex and perilous. This calls for a need to address all these issues by advocacy for a specific law of HRDs or have current laws amended to comply with international human rights standards on promotion and protection of HRDs. More importantly, it calls for a need to ensure that the new Constitution incorporates provisions that address HRDs issues. Hundreds of human rights defenders suffer due to poor legal framework and lack of Constitutional protection as they seek to protect the rights of others. Under this Output, the Coalition planned to accomplish the following:

- To intensify a working relationship with parliamentarians in order to lobby them to consider HRDs issues and raise awareness of the international human rights instruments governing the rights of HRDs. The approach was expected to result into enactment of specific law of HRDs/policies or improving existing laws in order to accommodate HRDs issues or/and ratify key international human rights instruments and domesticate the same.
- Engage Members of the Constitutional Assembly for inclusion of Human Rights Defenders issues in the new Constitution. These activities were not implemented in 2013; instead the Coalition included them in 2014 action plan. The Coalition planned to meet with members of the Constituent assembly and offer them relevant model provisions for the inclusion of HRDs in the new Constitution. This program is very crucial because Tanzania is currently undergoing through the Constitution reform process.

## 2.1.3 Advocacy for strengthening the capacity of law enforcers to address human rights defender according to law

Some States generally fulfill their obligation to respect, protect and implement human rights and in almost every State there are, at the very least, individuals within the security and civilian authorities who work very hard to protect human rights and fulfill the role of human rights defenders. In some cases, police officers and judges, have the role to protect human rights of others, to support justice, to protect HRDs and to end corruption.

The Coalition planned to meet with law enforcers and train them the concept of protection and security of HRDs. The workshop endeavored to highlight the role of law enforcers in defending human rights defenders in Tanzania. The need for such a seminar with law enforcers was also acknowledged by the Deputy Inspector General of Police Force Abdurrahman Kaniki in November 26, 2013. It was when he was invited to represent the Force during the launching of the Needs Assessment Report that he welcomed the idea for further engagement with Human Rights NGOs (HRNGOs). The implementation of this program was pushed to the 2014 activities.



Mr. Kaniki (pictured) has appreciated for the fact that the Needs Assessment Report of the THRDC is a working tool for the Police Force as well. He was speaking during the launch of the Needs Assessment Report before his recent promotion into this new post. He mentioned that human rights NGOs are stakeholders of the Police Force in protecting human rights in Tanzania. He boasted of major reforms in his Force including the introduction of the gender desk and that these developments are calculated to go up to the grass root level. He also counseled that observation of human rights is a joint effort and not the question of directing accusing fingers towards one institution. He admitted that violations of human rights by the Police Force in some cases as it has been revealed by the THRDC report is a product of lack of knowledge from some officials although there are many efforts to eliminate this trend.

## 2. 1.4 Improving HRDs solidarity and networking both at National and International levels

### (a) Attending regional and international meetings

In 2013, the THRDC received 10 invitations and attended over six regional and international meeting in a bid to create regional and international networking and co-operation with other bodies which defend Human Rights Defenders. The Coalition uses these meetings as well as an opportunity to meet and interact with donors interested to fund human rights defenders activities and their security.



*THRDC Protection officer Benedict Ishabakaki (Second from left,) networking with his fellow protection officers from Uganda, Burundi, DRC and Rwanda during protection stakeholders meeting in Kampala 2013.*

Some of those meetings were; Protection Stakeholders Meeting held on May 2013 Kampala, creation of Protection Fund (PTF) in Kampala July, 2013 Africa Human Rights Defenders Day in South Africa, the 54th ordinary session of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights in Banjul from 22nd -5th November 2013 and the 15th EU – NGO Forum on accountability convened by Protection International (PI) in Brussels Belgium.

The 54th Ordinary Meeting of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights (ACHPR) was preceded by NGOs Forum activities from 18th -20th October. The NGOs Forum is one of the main advocacy tools that the Centre uses to promote networking among Human Rights NGOs, for the promotion and protection of human rights in Africa. In collaboration with the African Commission and other human rights organizations, the African Centre has facilitated the participation of civil society organizations, academicians and other professionals from Africa and beyond in the African Commission's sessions.



*Posing for a photo at Kariaba Hotel in Banjul are; Commissioner Alapine Reine the Special rapporteur on human rights defenders in Africa (Centre) followed the THRDC Coordinator on her right and a lawyer from Senegal on her left.*

While in Banjul, the Coordinator managed to meet a diversity of stakeholders who paid interest to activities conducted by the THRDC. The THRDC National Coordinator successfully filed an application for observer status to the African Commission on Human and People's Rights.

The THRDC National Coordinator (Pictured) submitted application for observer status with the African commission in October 2013 during the 54th Session of African Commission. While in Brussels at the EU NGO forum, the Coalition met different stakeholders including donors. The Coalition through its National Coordinator also attended a round table discussion held as a side meeting in Brussels and managed to make a presentation on the national protection mechanism for human rights defenders in Tanzania.



*The THRDC National Coordinator (Pictured) submitted application for observer Status with the African commission in October 2013 during the 54th Session of African Commission.*

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*From left; are Protection International Program officer, the lady is the head of the HRDs Coalition in Brazil, followed by PI Board Member, HRDs National Coordinators from Mexico and Tanzania. Experience sharing and networking in Brussels December 2013.*

### **(b) Conducted Consultative Meeting with Media Owners**

On 15th May, 2013 the THRDC conducted a consultative meeting with media owners in Tanzania. The meeting was successful and it was a good attempt to bridge the gap between civil societies where this Coalition belongs and media practitioners through association of their employing body (MOAT). During this meeting, the Coalition managed to record several achievements such as creating solidarity, reducing a gap between civil societies and media practitioners as well as mitigating security challenges facing journalists.

The Coalition managed to also advocate for improved working environments for journalists. At the end of the session parties agreed and came up with resolutions specifically to protect journalists titled the “New Africa Hotel Agreement on the Safety of Journalists in Tanzania”. This agreement carries strategies on ways to mitigate risks facing journalists in Tanzania.



Delegates from the Media Owners Association of Tanzania and the THRDC Secretariat pose for a group photo after a session on May 15th, 2013. (From left- seated) The THRDC's National Coordinator Onesmo Olungurumwa, MOAT Chairperson Dr. Reginald Mengi, THRDC's Board Member Ms. Martina Kabisama and the UTPC President Mr. Kenneth Simbaya.

#### (c) Website development, social networks promotion page

During the year 2013, THRDC managed to amplify voices of Tanzania HRDs and increased visibility of the organization through social Media. As of December 2013, the THRDC face book page had received above 4,234 followers who paid interest to its work. This experience proves that the THRDC has increased its visibility not only at national but also at regional and international level respectively.

The THRDC has also managed to develop a new website and it can now be visited at: [www.thrd.or.tz](http://www.thrd.or.tz). Our website is user friendly with a live blog, and all social net working with current information on the situation of human rights defenders in Tanzania.

#### (d) Human Rights Defenders Day

The Coalition introduced the THRDC Day in Tanzania and marked it for the first time in the country on December 12 2013. The THRDC will be marking the Day in Tanzania annually within the same day. The Chairperson for the Commission of Human Rights and Good Governance (rtd) Judge Amir Manento graced the event as a Chief Guest at a colorful commemoration attended by over 100 people from the government, donor community and members from the CSOs.

The Special Guest Judge (rtd) Amir Manento the Chairman of the Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance (CHRAGG) was invited to the podium to officially inaugurate the Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Day. Judge Amir Manento launched the day and promised that CHRAGG will work closely with the Coalition in every year to make this event a success.



Hon Amir Manento, Chairperson Tanzania Human Rights Commission making an official inaugural of the Tanzania Human Rights Defenders' Day. With him are; Madam Kabisama Board Chair, Onesmo Olungurumwa National Coordinator THRDC and Absalom Kibanda Chairperson Tanzania Editors Forum on your right.

The event was also colored by awards to two rural human rights defenders one of whom met his death due to activism while as the other is serving a four years sentence in prison in Mbozi, Mbeya. The widow and wife respectively received the awards on behalf of their victimized spouses.

The first award went to Bruno Mwambene who has been imprisoned for four years after a criminal case against him had reached a verdict in Mbozi, he was charged of assault and interception in work to a Police Officer who was on duty. His wife Fane Mwashuiya received a picture of a motorbike (As it appears in the photo) in lieu of the real motorbike which would thereafter be transported to Mbozi, Mbeya region, the residence of the jailed HRD.



Thereafter the Special Guest mentioned Eustace Nyarugenda (now deceased) as Women Human Rights Defenders as another complicated situation and his activities as a HRD cannot be ruled out as possible causes of his untimely death. His widow Baseki Thomas received Tsh 800,000 as a support from the THRDC for her children's education.

### (e) EU – HRDs Annual Meeting- 26th November 2013

Human Rights Defenders in Tanzania continued to meet with the EU delegates to Tanzania as part of implementation of the EU Local Implementation Strategy for Human Rights Defenders. The strategy was praised as an important tool to achieve a concrete impact on human rights protection on the ground, and the establishment of a regular dialogue forum between the EU and the human rights defenders in Tanzania.

The crucial importance of in-country political dialogue on Human Rights and political support to HRDs was emphasised, particularly in a contest such as Tanzania where the traditional stability and positive track record of human rights protection results in a relative weakness of human rights protection watchdogs, monitoring mechanisms and enforcement institutions.

During the 2012 EU and HRDs dialogue, the EU Ambassador Filiberto Ceriani Sebregondi emphasised that, support for human rights defenders (individuals, and/or NGOs) is a long-established element of the European Union's human rights policy, and is built on the 1999 UN declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

The 2013 meeting was attended by Human Rights Defenders from Tanzania and diplomats from the EU Member States and EU Delegation in Tanzania. It was stressed that a vigorous and independent civil society both inside and outside the EU is essential to the functioning of democracy and the implementation of human rights. The effective engagement with civil society was referred to as a cornerstone of a successful human rights policy and great value was placed on the establishment of a regular dialogue with human rights defenders.

The 2013 meeting reviewed and discussed the Implementation status of the previous meeting resolutions.

#### Implementation status;

1. Political dialogue: There have been various interventions by the EU Heads of Missions including through the Article 8 Dialogue, EU HOMs field visits, EU HOMs engagement on human rights on the occasion of the Day Against Death Penalty; Local EU Statements, letters and demarches, public diplomacy.
2. EU-HRD dialogue: A successful example was the dialogue on the Loliondo land saga.



*A group of Loliondo leaders visited THRDC after being assisted to meet several stakeholders including EU, UN, Member of Parliament and the media*

3. Local Security and Protection Policy: Not much progress so far. A key point for the future discussion.
4. EU Local Rapid Response Mechanism: The THRDC Coalition has been registered in the EU database, which should make possible to access the funding within one week in case of emergency. Local Implementation Strategy was reviewed. It was the basis for a public document entitled EU Missions Engagement with Human Rights Defenders in Tanzania. The updated version has not yet been translated to Kiswahili.



*EU and HRDs 3rd Annual Dialogue in 2013*

It was recalled that this forum between EU and HRDs was of its kind in Tanzania. The second one was hosted and chaired in 2012 by the Finnish Embassy. The Embassy of Finland will take the lead of the EU-HRDs network and a forum foreseen in 2014.

**It was finally agreed on the following as the way forward:**

- Effective engagement with the HRDs, Suggested that the EU will be invited to the THRDC Human Rights Defenders Day , to be able to share information on general developments and to be able to define more specific action points;
- The EU will engage on specific human rights defenders issues according to the needs identified;
- EU and THRDC will set up operational procedures for cooperation, to give guidance when specific cases arise.

### **2.1.5 General Achievements under Outcome One Under this Outcome,**

The THRDC managed to record some notable achievements despite its first year of in operation coupled with financial challenges. One of such achievement is to create solidarity and networking between Tanzania HRDs and other regional, international HRDs bodies. For instance, the THRDC has managed to create working ties with EU diplomats from the EU Member States and EU Delegation in Tanzania.

The THRDC has also managed to create working relationship with Government institutions such as the Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance as well as the Police Force. This is a positive step towards engaging the government for the improvement and enactment of laws and policies for human rights defenders. Notably, the Concept of HRDs is now known by some key people in State machineries and the public at large.

The Coalition has also managed to expand its network at international and regional levels. The Coalition is increasingly becoming visible and famous to several international and regional organizations such as Protection International, Freedom House, CPJ, Front Line Defender, ICJ and many more working in the field of human rights. For instance, in 2013 the Coalition received 28 international visitors and 50 national visitors in its office.



*Interns and researchers from Canada ( Journalists for Human Rights-JHR ) visited THRDC in 2013 and learned how THRDC strives to protect journalists in Tanzania*

## 2.1.6 Challenges under Outcome One

Notwithstanding financial challenges, THRDC managed to attend some regional and international strategic meetings for the welfare of HRDS. Another challenge encountered was within the community and government officials who were found to embrace a wrong perception against HRDs as trouble mongers with ill intention to either ruin the government in power or authorities within the respective areas while that is not the case. This led to THRDC work being more difficult and risky.

## 2.2 OUTCOMETWO: Capacity of Media and HRDs to effectively protect and address their rights improved. CAPACITY BUILDING

Availing well designed capacity building sessions to the media and HRDs is vital. This is due to the concept on protection and promotion of these rights in Tanzania being new. Capacity building sessions are also meant to protect individuals and groups by preventing violations from recurring especially to those facing particular risks. It is also meant to ensure accountability for violations that have occurred, and thus empower HRDs to protect themselves.

The THRDC-Coalition uses preventive measures such as security management training to create a more secured working environment for HRDs. The security management trainings are designed to cover matters on how to analyze working environment, risk assessment, threat analysis, reaction to security incidents, digital security, and how to produce organizational security plans

Generally, security training provides general knowledge and tools for understanding and improvement of HRDs security and protection. The Coalition trains all HRDs on security management including journalists who are the most at risk HRDs. To achieve Outcome Two for the next five years, THRDC-Coalition plans to work towards accomplishing the following OUTPUTS:-

- 2.2.1 Existing and new human rights defenders are made aware of their rights and empowered to protect themselves.
- 2.2.2 Media practitioners are empowered to protect themselves, monitor and report human Rights abuses against HRDs
- 2.2.3 Human Rights Defenders are empowered on basic knowledge in financial management,
- 2.2.4 Human Rights Defenders are empowered in modern human rights ideas, international human rights systems and mechanism as part of continuing education.
- 2.2.5 Existing and new human rights defenders are made aware of their rights and empowered to protect themselves.

### (a) Developed Security Teaching Manual and Career Development

The THRDC has successfully developed a security and standardized teaching manual, to be used during security management training. The manual is organized to assist the user/facilitator during the sessions. The manual has 12 modules to be covered within three teaching days. Notably, the THRDC two staff namely the Coordinator and Legal Protection Officer undertook an extensive and long course on security management and risk assessment for HRDs from York University.

The course started from January to April 2013 where its participants were awarded with certificates. The two officers were offered partial scholarship to expand their career in protection of HRDs in Tanzania. Furthermore, the Coordinator acquired a diploma on security management and risk assessment for human rights defenders offered by Protection International.

### (b) Security Management and Risk Assessment

At least 98 HRDs were empowered with skills and knowledge on security management and risk assessment as from January to December 2013. These sessions were divided in groups where on May 2013, 30 HRDs across the country attended the training in Dar es Salaam. In September 2013, THRDC empowered over 12 HRDs from Minority group (SOGI HRDs) on security management and risk assessment in Bagamoyo. Meanwhile in October 2013, the THRDC empowered 30 Women HRDs on the same. The Coalition also conducted office level security management training to some of its member organizations.



Women HRDs and secretariat members pose for a group photo after the Security Management and Risk Assessment workshop conducted by the THRDC in Dar es Salaam, October 2013 A



*A staff member from Jukwa la Katiba (above) makes a group presentation on security at a Risk Assessment and Security training conducted by THRDC in Dar es Salaam in November 2013*

The TGNP Mtandao- organized training to staff on security management in October 2013. A total of 28 staff and members as well as TGNP members were empowered. Again in November 2013, the THRDC empowered over 21 HRDs from Jukwaa la Katiba on security and risk management and late on November the coalition in collaboration with Protection International expert managed to conduct a workshop with SOGI defenders in Dar es Salaam.



*Security management classes in group work*

### **(c) Financial Management Training**

Financial capacity of human rights NGOs is crucial to reduce vulnerability. It is important to bear in mind that weak financial support from international actors and the government in some cases, compromise human rights defenders' work and undermine their credibility hence putting them at risk. The right of NGOs and civil society organizations to access and to receive funding is a fundamental aspect of the right to freedom of association. It is expressly guaranteed in Article 13 of the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, which provides that 'Everyone has the right, individually and in association with others, to solicit, receive and utilize resources for the express purpose of promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms through peaceful means'

HRNGOs working in peripheral and at regional and district levels often lack permanent donors and are thus forced to depend on small projects which also lack project management funds by its implementers. The Coalition made efforts to establish over the reasons for lack of resources to run small or growing HRNGOs and learnt that challenges begin from the ability to solicit and utilize resources to promote human rights activities.

HRDs do not have the basic fundraising skills necessary to ensure regular funding for their work. Lack of resources affect both HRDs' capacity to effectively carry out their work but can also have a negative impact on their personal security and the security of their organizations.

The Coalition engaged the East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project (EHAHRDP) to conduct financial management training to its members in a bid to ensure that they are equipped in reporting. The first EHAHRDP's training was attended by 15 member organizations based in Dar es Salaam in September 2013. The THRDC will continue to offer financial management trainings to its members from time to time depending on availability of resources.

## 2.2.6 Achievement under Outcome Two

The THRDC uses preventive measures such as security management training to create a more secured working environment for HRDs. The security management trainings are designed to cover matters on how to analyze working environment, risk assessment, threat analysis react to security incidents, digital security, and production of organizational security plans. Generally, the security training provides general knowledge and tools for the understanding and improvement of HRDs security and protection.

In 2013, the Coalition conducted security management and risk assessment trainings to over 100 HRDs. As part of early security management and risk assessment training evaluation, the following are some of the views and feedback from participants:

“I learnt a lot on security issues and from now onwards I am security conscious,” (Said Ms. Sharon Joseph a Woman Human Rights Defender from Kigoma)

“It is a very new thing to me. There are always threats to our security, but we never thought of training on security and risk assessment. Indeed, every organization will benefit from this training. (A defender representing an organization from Dodoma)

“We now implement ideas where we have a register book for guests and all security incidents which we manage on our own. We are also scouting funds for office security. (A comment from one NGO in Dar es Salaam)

A journalist with a Kiswahili daily tabloid in Tanzania, Ms Arodia Peter undertook training on security management by the THRDC and learnt the advantage of sharing sensitive stories from one media outlet to the other. She cited an example of a story on illegal oil deals conducted by some companies, and this is what she had to say:

“The THRDC has been an eye opener and I now understand that sharing a sensitive story with several outlets reduces the risks of attacks to a single journalist.

## 2.2.6 Challenges under Outcome Two

Security management training is now a major demand in the country. Hundreds of HRDs and journalists have shown the need for this knowledge. However, the Coalition lacks adequate resource to reach all targeted groups such as pastoralists’ defenders, journalist and minority HRDs. The Coalition taught that majority of HRDs especially those from rural areas lack basic concepts of human rights in general. This knowledge gap at some points affects the teaching of security management and risk assessment.

The THRDC realized that it is also challenging to combine a whole class with people of different knowledge base, because there are fast and slow learners, lawyers and non lawyers etc. Eventually, journalists and HRDs need more time for these trainings.

## 2.3 OUTCOMETHREE: Protection Mechanisms Established and Accessed by HRDs at risk (PROTECTION)

Security of HRDs is important for them to work confidently and effectively. As such, the THRDCs-Coalition plans to develop and enhance the security and protection of HRDs by developing various skills, capacities and strategies to allow them to improve the level of their self-protection and protection of others who depend on their (HRDs) presence.

The THRDC-Coalition established self-protection mechanisms such as the National Security Policy and Protection Desk. The major role of the protection desk is to assess risks and threats facing HRDs and advice for protection support. The desk also works jointly with capacity building unit and will organize security management trainings to HRDs throughout the country.

The protection desk will be working and coordinating issues of protection support as it handles all such issues.

A flow of information will maintain a channel namely contact from first person up to the zonal representative. The information will then go up to the protection desk officer. Then from that point, the particular officer will have to convey a message to the coordinator who will decide how to intervene. The information should be shared but intervention must be within 48 hours. The major role of the protection desk is to assess risk and threats facing HRDs and advice for protection support.

The established protection mechanisms abides to the adoption of the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders in 1998, whereby a number of initiatives are taken, both at the national, regional and international level, to increase protection of defenders and contribute to the full implementation of the Declaration. To achieve strategic aim three of the Coalition, THRDC-Coalition plans to work towards accomplishing the following OUTPUT namely:-

- 2.3.1 Established and Strengthened Self-Protection Mechanisms for HRDs.
- 2.3.2 Establish an Emergence Protection Fund for HRDs at risk

### 2.3.1 Established and Strengthened Self-Protection Mechanisms for the HRDs

#### (a) Developed HRDs Security Policy, Protection Desk and National Protection Mechanism

The protection desk was established and a legal/ protection officer was employed. A security expert from Uganda was consulted to develop THRDC security policy. The Coalition through the protection desk offered security advice to more than 50 HRDs in 2013.

#### (b) Conducted Security Needs Assessment Survey

From 26th May to 4th July 2013, the THRDC-Coalition under the team of Onesmo Olungurumwa Coordinator and Elias Mhegera Information officer carried out Security, safety and protection needs assessment for eight zones in Tanzania, with more than 176 Human rights NGOs interviewed and over 321 HRDs interviewed.



The THRDC information officer (from Left) concluding a focused group discussion With interviewee in Zanzibar, during security needs assessment survey in 2013.

This exercise meant to understand the working environment (context) within which HRDs operate and thus assess their security needs. Security needs assessment survey was crucial for better implementation of THRD-Coalition strategic plan 2013-2014. The core purposes or objectives of this security needs assessment survey include the following:

- (i) Unveiling security challenges and needs of HRDs in regard to the risk they face,
- (ii) Supplementing past information used by the Coalition to develop its strategic plan.
- (iii) It also sharpens and gives detailed information from larger and more representative group of HRDs from across the country,
- (iv) Consequently, the results of this assessment are used as guidelines for THRDC to prepare and strengthen of the following core activities;

- a) Capacity building programs,
- b) Protections programs,
- c) Advocacy programs and
- d) The development of the National Protection Policy



THRDC security team and staffs of the ABC foundation in the Lake Zone -Mara

### (c) Launched the Needs Assessment Report

On 26th November 2013, the THRDC launched the protection and security needs for human rights defenders in Tanzania, the ceremony was attended by human rights defenders, development partners, journalists, government officials and members of diplomatic corps. The Coalition invited Honorable Othman Chande the Chief Justice of Tanzania as special guest during the event. It was the first of the kind for a high rank State official in Tanzania to address HRDs issues in public.

The security needs assessment was conducted to supplement past information used by the Coalition to develop its strategic plan. Consequently, the results of this assessment report will be used as a guideline for THRDC to prepare and strengthen the following core activities; Capacity building programs, Protections programs, Advocacy programs and development of the National Protection Policy.



*Holding a Copy of the Reports each Are; From Left; Tom Vens (European Union) , Coordinator THRDC, Chairperson of the Board of Directors of THRDC ,The Tanzania's Chief Justice Hon. Mohamed Chande Othman, Finnish Ambassador to Tanzania Sinikka Antila, Ms Agnes Hanti The Program Officer and Country Manager, OSIEA.*

#### **(d) Establishment of Emergency Response System (Phone Calls, Skype)**

The THRDC has established an Emergency response. The emergency system operates under the protection officer's desk. The Emergency response used by the THRDC is a phone number displayed in the website [www.thrd.or.tz](http://www.thrd.or.tz). The number can receive any claim and conduct assessment around the clock.

#### **2.3.2 Established and Emergence Protection Fund for HRDs at risk**

In 2013, the Protection desk attended to over 50 HRDs claims. All of those attended were evaluated and documented and where necessary technical support was provided. The desk received two cases which are out of its jurisdiction, one from a whistle blower and another from a witness victim.

#### **(a) Provided Support to 8 Human Rights Defenders/Zonal Focal Persons-for Reporting and Interventions Around their Respective Zones**

The THRDC supported more than four Focal persons and regional representatives in making follow up of HRDs cases in their respective places during the year 2013. This has simplified the work of the secretariat as these focal persons always submit reports to the protection desk once they conduct fact finding missions.

#### **(b) Legal Representation**

The THRDC managed to support four legal cases facing HRDs for the year 2013 where it extended its support to Antony Solo, a Human Rights Defender who was maliciously remanded for two weeks in Shinyanga. Mr. Solo faced the wrath mainly because of his activism but was finally released after the intervention. Dominick BB a HRD in Dodoma was also remanded just because of his work. The Coalition jointly with LHRC provided legal representation. THRDC still provides legal representation to Bruno Mwambene, a human rights defender currently serving a four years sentence in Mbozi. The Coalition managed to engage lawyers for an appeal against the sentence.

#### **(c) Evacuation and reallocation, including fact find missions and investigation**

During the year 2013, the Coalition has managed to extend its protection in terms of evacuation and reallocation to five HRDs at risk. For instance during the Oil and Gas saga in Mtwara, the Coalition had to evacuate some journalists due to being under risk owing to their jobs. On May 2013, the Coalition in collaboration with the Mtwara Press Club reallocated for a short term a journalist to a safe zone and within the same month THRDC evacuated and reallocated another journalist from Mtwara who was at risk. The later was on constant surveillance by the Tanzania People's Defense force (TPDF) after she wrote a story on human rights violations in the region. The Coalition managed also to secure a safe house for Kassimu Mikongolo after his house was set ablaze by an angry mob in Mtwara.

The THRDC in collaboration with its partners the Frontline Defenders and the East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project (EHAHDP) managed to evacuate two journalists for three months where one of them is now back working under strictly care. Lastly, on October 2013 the Coalition in collaboration with the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) evacuated yet another journalist at risk to a safe house in neighboring countries.

## **(d) Fact Finding Missions**

In 2013, the THRDC conducted five fact finding missions in Shinyanga, Mwanza, Musoma, Mtwara, Dodoma, Dar es Salaam, Morogoro and Mbeya. Findings of these missions were used as part of risk assessment to determine the kind of protection support needed.

### **2.3.1 Achievement under Outcome Three**

The THRDC has managed to successfully establish and maintain a protection desk for the first time ever in Tanzania. The Coalition employed a Legal/ Protection officer who had previously volunteered for the same position. Currently, the Coalition can assess emergency cases facing HRDs and thus provide appropriate and timely support.

The Coalition has successfully managed to provide administrative and legal support to HRDs under the protection programme where currently, HRDs cases are directed to this desk. The Protection Officer has made it possible for the service to be more accessible. Furthermore, he has made it possible for the Coalition to respond to serious cases urgently. The protection support program has spared the lives of 10 HRDs and the duos are now executing their duties harmoniously.

### **2.3.1 Challenges under outcome Three**

The THRDC protection services have attracted several groups of HRDs, some of whom don't fall within its thematic areas. In some cases, the Coalition has been receiving cases from outside the country. Attending HRDs cases from outside has been very challenging because its clients are so demanding and expensive to handle. The situation becomes even harder when international and regional partners delay or refuse to collaborate with the Coalition.

It has also been very challenging when other HRDs demand protection support without genuine reasons. For instance it is very hard to support HRDs who need migration services. More has to be done to create clear legal environment for HRDs who need such services. The Coalition also noted that some HRDs at risk don't react on security incidents on time hence making protection intervention complicated. Furthermore, majority of them don't keep the trend of security threats. At times, it becomes very tough to assess a risk or threats when victims don't keep record of evidences such as phone calls, numbers, messages and security incidents.

## **2.4 OUTCOME FOUR: Improved Performance and Sustainability of THRD-Coalition (INSTITUTIONAL BUILDING)**

Efficient, effectiveness and sustainability of any organization depend on, among other things, over its internal and external organization. A question of adherence to principles of good governance sounds quite strong here. As such, during the implementation of its 5 years Strategic Plan, the THRDs-Coalition commits itself to invest heavily in skilled human resources who can fundraise effectively as well as undertake all planned activities professionally and within time.

The coalition ensured that there is improved governance in all levels of administration; there is in place an innovative fundraising strategy and financial systems; there are well established documentation systems; and that, programs are periodically and efficiently monitored and evaluated. To achieve aim four, THRD-Coalition plans to accomplish the following OUTPUTS:-

- 2.4.1 Ensured availability of human resources and performance improvement.
- 2.4.2 Ensured organizational development and good management
- 2.4.3 Ensured availability of financial resources and improved financial management.
- 2.4.4 Established and ensures improved governance.
- 2.4.5 Functioning M&E system and baseline indicators in place.

### **2.4.1 Ensured availability of human resources and performance improvement**

The Coalition employed four skilled Staff and two volunteers in 2013. The National Coordinator was employed in January 2013, while as the Media Information Officer and Legal/Protection officer, Accountant/Finance Officer were later on employed between March and May 2013 respectively. The Coalition recruited two volunteers, an office guide and Advocacy/litigation officer.

The Coalition was able to conduct a staff appraisal where it noted some few areas of improvement among staff members. The process meant to remind staff members their roles and duties. It also conducted monthly management meeting. The THRDC has developed a Human resource Policy, currently used to guide staff affairs, office management and code of conduct for proper office human resource management. The Coalition is currently understaffed and the shortage of staff members forces the few available ones to be overloaded. This remains as a challenge in need of immediate attention.

### **2.4.2 Ensured Organizational Development (OD)**

During its first year of operation, the Coalition engaged an organization development consultant to work with for the whole year as an OD consultant. The OD program has helped the Coalition as a young organization to move towards the right direction. It has also made it possible for the Coalition to identify its strengths and weaknesses. Some of the key issues addressed by the consultant are in need of supplementary capacity strengthening for the coming two years. They include financial management training, board governance interventions, development of a comprehensive M&E plan and baseline data for the revised strategic plan as well as a board charter.



*THRDC Secretariat and Prudence Kaijage, OD Consultant (from right) in one of the OD sessions in Arusha Capacity Building and Leadership Institute*

The organizational mapping process was the first step in the OD support. It was earmarked for the THRDC-Coalition with support from American Organizations (anonymous). The process was aimed at guiding members and staff of THRDC to identify key issues from the assessment using an Organizational mapping tool. The Coalition has ever since January 2013 been under the consultancy on Organizational Development issues. The OD consultant worked with the Coalition on the following areas:

Intervention area (in order of priority)	Prioritized issues
1. Develop operational processes & systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial management</li> <li>• Monitoring and evaluation</li> <li>• Human Resource manual</li> <li>• Salary structure (incorporated during the process)</li> <li>• Revised Operational plan to implement the strategic plan (incorporated during the process)</li> <li>• Fundraising strategy and action plan</li> <li>• Staff appraisal conducted</li> </ul>
2. Recruit and develop staff with the required technical skills	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Recruit staff with Financial management/Accounts</li> <li>2. Develop skills among existing staff</li> <li>3. Financial management skills</li> <li>4. Project management skills</li> <li>5. Fundraising skills</li> </ol>
3. Improve Governance and leadership	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Clarify governance responsibilities</li> <li>2. Strengthen leadership and management skills for the Executive Coordinator Team building (incorporated during the process)</li> </ol>

All the aforementioned OD sessions managed to clarify the role of board members and their relationship to the secretariat. The sessions managed to appreciate their dynamics and challenges and to identify areas for further development. Furthermore, the said sessions managed to explore and analyze the need for various organizational processes and systems required for THRDC to become a sustainable, effective and an efficient organization.

#### **2.4.3 Ensured availability of financial resources and improved financial management**

The THRDC has so far managed to raise 60% of the required amount of funds for the implementation of the two years operational plan. Currently, the THRDC enjoys support from the following donors and development partners: Finnish Embassy, OSIEA, American Organization (anonymous), British High Commission and member's fees. The THRDC has managed to raise fund using members' contribution fees. However the amount is still meager as compared to the organization's budget. The amount raised has been used to buy some of the office furniture as well as for the 2013 HRDs Awards.

Thus, the implementation of the current strategic plan 2013-17 is not fully funded. However, the Open Society Initiatives for East Africa (OSIEA), the American Organization (anonymous) and Finnish Embassy have funded some of the activities for the first two years operation plan 2013-2014 as indicated in table I. These activities include security needs assessment, development of security policy, advocacy activities, office rent, office utilities, staff salaries, security management trainings, protection emergence fund, organizational development programs and development of financial systems.

Table I Current donors

Name of donor or other source of funding	Name of Project or Area Funded	Amount (USD)	Start Date	End date	Status (C: committed, R: requested, N: not yet requested)
OSIEA	Two years Operational plan	179,000	February 2013	February 2015	Deposited
American Organization (anonymous).	Two years Operational plan	200,000	July 2013	July 2013	Deposited
Finnish	Two years Operational plan	80,000 (Euro)	May 2013	May 2014	Deposited
OSF	Two years Operational plan	30,000	December 2013	November 2014	Deposited
Members fees		2,000	January 2013	January 2014	

Almost all programs and activities of the Coalition in 2013 relied entirely on external financial support as the Coalition had not managed to fundraise any other fund from local sources including the government. Nonetheless, the Coalition managed to implement some of the key activities for the first year of the strategic plan. The Coalition is now in the process to mobilize funds for its operations for the next four years.

### (i) Financial Sustainability Strategy

The Coalition came up with a Financial Sustainability Strategy to mitigate financial risks. The idea to scout for alternative sources of funds arises because the THRD-Coalition is concerned with its financial sustainability should current partners depart or reduce their contributions. The Coalition has to continue with its existence and functioning even in times where a particular donor or group of donors no longer funds it. HRDs need to benefit from THRD-Coalition interventions. For this to take place, THRD-Coalition must be able to generate enough resources to work towards its financial sustainability.

The Coalition needs a financial strategy that includes a number of strategic options for financing, rather than just funding from donors. There has to be a strategy that will bring about some autonomy, reduce over dependency on foreign support, and in the long term lead to self-dependency.

However, it is worth noting that financial autonomy does not require the THRD-C to be 100% self-financing (financed completely from income it earns) but rather requires THRD-C to be partially rather than wholly dependent on one source for its financing. A mixture of different sources of financing is thus required. It is due to this background that the Coalition has prepared its Financial Sustainability Strategy (FSS). The FSS aims to:

- Identify the number and combination of ways that the Coalition can use to ensure longer-term sustainability.
- Provide detailed approach and methodology that the Coalition can use to implement the recommended strategy.
- Provide an impact assessment of sustainability of the Coalition on adoption of the chosen strategies.
- Identify key potential donors and project their support for the five years
- Establish and Ensure improved Governance

### (ii) Financial Management Assessment

For better implementation of the THRD's strategic plan for the period 2013-2017, the THRD-C underwent an organizational financial management assessment to identify strengths and gaps required in order to implement the strategic plan. The three major outputs expected from the financial management assessment were the following:

1. To identify the strengths and weaknesses of THRD Financial Management System and provide recommendations.
2. To review THRD financial manual and based on findings in 1 above and suggest areas of improvement.
3. To recommend a suitable accounting software package for THRD and after installation train the staff on its use.

The findings of the assessment enabled the Coalition to make significant improvement in financial management systems. Despite its young age, the Coalition has been pointed to be among the few organizations in the country with well established financial management systems.

#### 2.4.1 Established and Improved Governance

The THRD-Coalition has a sound management team and Board of Directors which oversee its taking off and other planned activities. It also has a General Assembly (GA) as an overall and supreme organ on the coalition. The institutional governance and management of THRDs-Coalition is stretched into three main levels namely; the General Assembly (GA) which comprises of regional and thematic representatives of HRDs; the Board of Directors (BDs) which stands as governing body; and the Secretariat which serves as its Management body. There is also the Advisory Council which unlike others is non-executive organ.

Currently, the coalitions BODs has 8 Members of whom 5 (60%) are women. Some of the key functions of the BODs are to act as governing and policy making organ of the coalition, set strategies for financing, control financing as well as to identify resources for sustainability of the coalition. The tenure of the office of directors is three (3) years subject to a renewable term. The BODs met four times in 2013 as per THRDC constitution. The Constitution compels the Coordinator to convene 4 BODs in a year. The Coalition managed to conduct the second Annual General Meeting in December 12, 2014.



*THRDC Office in Dar es Salaam*

The THRDC staff and Board members took part in a financial and organizational training for non finance managers. The consultant to this training was funded by an American organization (anonymous) while other costs were covered by this grant. At the end of the session both the secretariat and board members were empowered with knowledge on principles of finance and accounting.

#### **2.4.6 Functioning M&E system, Strategic Plan and baseline indicators in place**

The THRD-Coalition successfully launched its Strategic Plan 2013-2017 on 24th January 2013. Over 40 THRD-Coalition members from upcountry, including over 60 other invited participants and journalists attended the session.



*The Swedish Ambassador (at the middle) going through the strategic plan, seating on his left is Finnish Ambassador to Tanzania the rest are HRDs, development partners and invited guests.*

Invited participants included development partners; donors both local and international; embassies and missions; policy makers; government officials, media regional organizations and UN agencies. The major objective of this ceremony was finally reached as most of the invited donors drew an interest to fund some of the activities for the coming two years. As a result, ties between the Coalition and donors have been improved significantly. Notably, the THRDC has developed a two years action plan to easily implement its strategic plan.

## OVERALL GOAL

The overall goal of the project is to contribute to the reduction of risks that human rights defenders face through promotion and protection of human rights.

## INDICATORS

- Proportion of young people willing to join the work of Human Rights Defenders.
- 50% of the cases of Human Rights Defenders at risk taken up.
- Reduced rate of attack to Human Rights defenders.
- Reduced threats to Human Rights Defenders.

## STRATEGIC

## OBJECTIVES

To achieve that goal and indicators stated above, the THRD Coalition adopted the following strategic approaches (outcomes or key result areas – KRAs):

- The legal and policy frameworks (and practice) to address Human Rights Defenders' issues and CSOs networking improved-**ADVOCACY**
- Capacity of Media and HRDs to effectively protect and address their rights improved - **CAPACITY BUILDING**
- Protection mechanisms established and accessed by HRDs at risk- **PROTECTION**
- An improved performance and sustainability of the Tanzania Human Rights Defenders' Coalition - **INSTITUTIONAL BUILDING**



*Holding Copies of the five year plan each are , from left, Neil Blazebyc from Kampala representing EHAHRDN, THRD Board Chair, Guest of honor, President of the Tanganyika Law Society Adv Francis Stolla and lastly THRD CEO.*

A presentation of a detailed explanation of how progress will be measured is under the Monitoring and Evaluation tool developed in 2013. The logical framework provides key indicators that will be used to monitor project progress towards meeting its objectives. A presentation of a detailed explanation of how progress will be measured is under the Monitoring and Evaluation tool developed in 2013. The logical framework provides key indicators that will be used to monitor project progress towards meeting its objectives. This plan was developed after the revision of the strategic plan to make it more realistic.



*Key note address by the guest of honor TLS President Adv. Francis Stola (on the podium)*

An external but participatory evaluation may be conducted at the end of the project. It will assess the validity of the project's original premises; the pertinence of the project's activities and approach in response to this analysis; the degree to which it has achieved its stated objectives; the nature and scale of its impact on its stated beneficiaries; and, subject to its findings, make recommendations for a subsequent phase of work. Subject to discussions with other donors, the evaluation may be conducted jointly at a mutually agreed period.

#### **2.4.7 Achievement under this Outcome**

- THRDC has put in place a computerized financial management system that has greatly enhanced its ability to manage its diverse donor and statutory accountability obligations. This was coupled with the development of its operational and human resource policies which have jointly made THRDC a model start up CSO.
- Board members agreed that the OD process had led to an improvement in the governance of the coalition due to a better clarity of their role and that of the executive coordinator. The financial management training in particular helped to clarify and strengthen their financial oversight role which had been a subject of controversy in the past. There is an improved consultation between the Executive Coordinator and the Board chair and a tremendous improvement in the preparation and management of board meeting.

### 3.0 MEMBERSHIP

The Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC) is a non-governmental and a nonprofit making organization founded as a coalition to defend both organizations and individuals from various thematic areas who advocate and defend human rights defenders in Tanzania. THRDC is therefore, a membership organization.

#### 3.1 Types of Membership

Article 6 of the THRDC constitution provides for three (3) types of membership which are; Full Membership, Associate Membership and Honorary Membership but currently the coalition admits the former type of membership. Since its inception in 2010, the coalition has officially opened up for membership registration in 2012. The Coalition was incepted in 2010 but its membership was made open in 2012.

In 2012, the Board approved 21 new members both individuals and organizations, and at present, the coalition has raised the number twice as much to 44 new members summing it to 68 active members. However, there are quite a number of members who remain inactive as their participation is poor and not to mention of nonpayment of prescribed annual fees. The figure of non-active members comes close to 30 hence makes it almost 100 members in totality.

#### 3.2 Membership Assessment

The Coalition conducted its membership assessment and realized that it had more individual members than organizations. The Coalition also noted that there were about 30 inactive members. The few who filled assessment forms pointed out to be satisfied by services rendered to them by the Coalition. The coalition has since its infancy stage faced challenges on membership. The following are notable membership challenges facing the organization:

- Delay and non-payment of fees: Delays in payment of fees are common to both new and existing members while others do not pay their fees for renewal of their membership.
- Payments on event basis: it has been observed that most members pay their fees as events come nearby. Such events include training, conferences, AGM's etc. The obvious motive behind is that one must pay their fees to be eligible to attend such events.
- Individuals outweigh organization members: The number of individual membership is higher than organization members. Worse still some individuals join the coalition as members, while at the same time working for NGOs that defend human rights. It was therefore resolved that no such members will be admitted as those working with registered NGOs automatically become members by virtue of their organizations. It is recommended that, the Coalition should now give membership to all human rights NGOs surveyed during Security Needs Assessment.
- Communication Barrier: Most members are in the interior parts of the country, making it hard to reach them due to an infrastructural communication barricade. Most of these members do not have a reliable form of communication such as cell phones which are in most times unreachable, and not to mention of the internet such as emails and social network where the coalition depends on to disseminate information to its members and the public in general. This affects rural dwellers members who normally receive information at the last minute.
- Criteria for admission not met by prospective members: Most organizations and individuals wishing to join the coalition fall short of criteria for admission hence are not admitted. Article 6(2) of the THRDC Constitution clearly stipulates criteria for membership admission as payment of all prescribed annual fees and deposition of documents.

### 4.0 SUCCESS STORIES

Formation of a coalition to address security challenges facing HRDs is by itself a success considering its concept being new to HRDs themselves and to the country. Hence the overall goal for this project is to reduce risks that human rights defenders face through awareness raising, promotion and protection of human rights defenders. This being a multi-year initiative, we can categorically describe our success relying on some programs implemented in 2013.

The Coalition developed a five years plan. This plan became useful and contributed greatly to what the Coalition stands today. Other programs implemented during first year of the plan were accomplished successful and met the objectives of the project. This includes Security Management Trainings, institutional building, Security Needs Assessment and the introduction of the Tanzania human Rights Defender's day. Majority of our members and partners have described the Coalition as a fast growing organization as they compare the numbers of activities conducted in 2013 and its age since its formation.

- i. THRDC managed to convene a meeting with 30 media owners and there after came up with strategies for safety and protection of journalists in Tanzania.
- ii. THRDC managed to empower 100 Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) from different thematic groups such as lawyers, women, minority, pastoralist and Journalists with knowledge on security management and risk assessment.
- iii. A huge section of the community especially the media and CSOs have now gained the concept of security to HRDs.

- iv. THRDC services are now widely known and accepted. For instance, some of its members invited the Coalition to train its staff members on the concept of security management. The Coalition conducted a membership satisfaction assessment to measure the impact of its work and found out that majority of its beneficiaries enjoyed its services.

“Sijawahi kujua kwamba sisi kama watetezi tuko kwenye hatari, pia nimefurahi kujua kumbe watetezi tuna tamko la Umoja wa Mataifa linalotoa haki kwetu kama watetezi” I was never aware before that we as defenders were in danger. iam glad to know that the Universal Declaration of Human rights guarantees rights to us as defenders,” said one of the participants.

“Kwakweli Mafunzo haya ya Ulinzi na Usalama kwa watetezi yamenijengea ujasiri wa kufanya kazi zaidi.”  
“The training on security and protection to HRDs has indeed instilled courage for me to execute my duties more than ever,” said another participant.

- v. The Coalition significantly increased its visibility and trust from various stakeholders at international, regional and national levels. The Coalition continues to receive invitations to several international meetings that provide positive contribution to the growth of the Coalition. For instance, the Coalition received 20 invitations from inside and 10 from outside in 2013, while a numbers of visitors to its office being 28 (from outside the country) and 50 (from within the country).
- vi. The THRDC has so far managed to increase relationship with donors and raise 60% of the required amount of funds for the implementation of its Two Years Operational Plan from January to December 2013.
- vii. The National Coordinator has emerged as one of the leading lights of civil societies in Tanzania. From his own admission, the mentorship provided by the OD consultant has given him the confidence to articulate his points of view to the public without fear. He has also been able to competently address challenges associated with founding members of the organization and feels more confident with his leadership role. This was also supported by board members who have observed greater confidence and professionalism in all staffmembers.

“I have been transformed. I feel as if I am somebody else. I have improved my professionalism, I am more confident, more skillful and know what I want to achieve and reasons for it. The training and mentorship helped me to solve emerging problems” Executive Coordinator  
“Onesmo is now able to say a firm No or Yes” Board Chair person

- vi. The following are some of the views and feedback as part of the Protection evaluation from our beneficiaries: Kassimu Mikongolo a journalist evacuated Mtwara after his house had been set on fire had this to say to the Protection Desk;

“Kwakweli nashukuru sana THRDC kwa msaada wa walionipa, sipati picha kama kungekuwa hakuna chombo kama hiki hapa nchini maisha yangu yangekuwa hatarini. Kwa sasa naishi kwenye sehemu salama niliyopangishiwa na THRDC” I really appreciate and thank THRDC for the protection rendered to me. I can't imagine how my life would have been had it not been for the existence of this organization in the country. My life would have been in danger. I now live in a secured place paid for by the THRDC.”

Another anonymous HRD and journalist faced almost a similar ordeal and was evacuated from his /her residence, after he/she received several death threats and intimidations including a gun pointed at him/her.

” Kifupi naweza sema THRDC imeokoa maisha yangu, binafsi napenda kusema THRDC imekuwa msaada kwangu na kwa watetezi wa haki za binadamu hapa Tanzania hasa waandishi wa habari ambao wako hatarini.” In a nutshell, THRDC has served my life. I personally would like to testify that THRDC has been of great assistance to me and HRDs in Tanzania especially journalists most

- viii. The Tanzania Judiciary through its Chief Justice Othman Chande paid homage to the THRDC saying its work is crucial for better enjoyment of human rights. During the official launching of the security needs assessment report, Hon Chande had this to say;

“**Hon Participants** the Report being officially launched today is thought provoking, and it must be, as it originates from Human Rights Defenders themselves as sources. It provides grass-root views that are to form part of the implementation road-map for their Coalition's Five Years Strategic Plan. The Report is very revelatory. It provides detailed information from a representative group of HRDs from across the country, on their safety and security in regard to the risk they face in their work on human rights. The document has also assessed the capacity and vulnerabilities of HRDs in relation to existing threats’

“**Hon Participants**, ‘I would suggest that the moment is long over-due in recognizing the pivotal role played by Human Rights Defenders in the promotion and protection of human rights in Tanzania. Their role needs to be acknowledged publicly by authorities. As non-judicial and independent mechanisms for accountability and for effective implementation of rights based approaches to socio-economic development and growth they need to be better recognized. Yet they continue to face, as says the Report illuminates, political related challenges, including stigmatization, branding and wrong perception. It is on record that one of the main threats is in labeling them as anti –Government or trouble mongers or puppets of foreign interests. In some countries they have even been branded “enemies of the state”. HRDs are neither touts (Wapiga Debe) nor “busy bodies”. The wrong perceptions need to be corrected by the dissemination of relevant information on what their role and function is and is not.’”

- ix. THRDC has put in place a computerized financial management system that has greatly enhanced its ability to manage its diverse donor and statutory accountability obligations. This was coupled with the development of its operational and human resource policies which have all combined to make THRDC a model start up CSO. "Independent External Auditors failed to believe that the organization had only been in existence for less than 2 years and had managed to have sound financial management system and proper and current functioning accounting system"
- x. THRDC has made a significant contribution in the areas of democracy and human rights ever since it launched its activities in 2011. For instance, its call for unbanning of newspapers, condemnation of violence and threats against HRDs have sparked a wide debate with lawmakers campaigning for abolition of some of the bad media laws such as the Newspapers Act of 1976 as proposed in its statements. Its efforts will with no doubt at the end of the day help a lot to change people's mindset.

## 5.0 GENERAL CHALLENGES

- The Coalition is still new to many, including members. At times, members and non members bring cases which the Coalition lacks proper jurisdictions. The public and some members confuse the role of THRDC and that of its members.
- The number of journalists wishing to join the Coalition is huge, it was therefore resolved that the Coalition will treat them as members through the Union of Tanzania Press Club (UTPC).
- The Concept of HRDs rights and security is still new to many people in the country. We are therefore at some point forced to use extra efforts to convince targeted groups.
- A certain section of donor community is willing to work with the Coalition but provide very minimal support when it comes to technical or financial support.
- This kind of work at times very risk and threatening. Some friends and family members of the THRDC secretariat don't see the need to continue with life threatening work. Their worries are connected with some of popular HRDs cases THRDC stands for.
- The Coalition is understaffed; hence makes the few available staff overloaded. The Coalition is unable to increase man power because the few available supporting staff members are not sufficiently facilitated. This problem is fueled by lack of resources and permanent donors.
- The Coalition lacks its own vehicle, hence becomes hard to intervene some HRDs cases timely, taking into consideration that Tanzania is huge geographically.

## 6.0 CONCLUSION

The Coalition has so far, regardless the financial dilemma managed to meet its goals and plans for year one at almost 75%. The Coalition implemented all the key activities such as organizational development programs, security management trainings and protection support. The Coalition also managed to increase its visibility and relationship with stakeholders of diverse interest from within and outside the country. Today the Coalition jubilantly celebrates the end of year one, not because it was fully funded or supported, but because it has a committed, well experienced and dedicated secretariat. Its work is now valued by its members, HRDs, donor and international community.



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