



CDF Profile

CHILDREN'S

DIGNITY

FORUM



Gender Equality

**Partnership and
Participation**

Voice of Children



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Organization Information

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Acronym	CDF	
Country	Tanzania	
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Legal Status	Registered Non – Governmental Organization	
Organization Registration No.	OONGO/0743	
Registration Year	28th March 2006	
Organization TIN No.	110-869-606	
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Background and History

The concept of establishing Children Dignity Forum (CDF) originated from within the women's movement, which was actively engaged in gender equality and women's empowerment initiatives at the time. This led to the formation of the Children's Dignity Forum (CDF) in early 2000s with the aim of providing a platform to safeguard children's rights, transform societal attitudes towards young women and children rights, and address prevalent issues affecting child dignity. In 2006, CDF obtained official registration under the NGO Act No. 24/2002 (Registration Certificate No. 00NGO/0743). CDF headquarters is in Dar es Salaam, with additional offices in Tarime and Mpwapwa District in Mara and Dodoma Region, respectively.



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About CDF

Children’s Dignity Forum (CDF) is a voluntary, private, non-governmental, non-partisan, and non-profit-making civil society organization dedicated to upholding the rights of children. At CDF, we focus on safeguarding the well-being and dignity of girls and young women in Tanzania by actively working to end harmful practices such as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), child marriage, teenage pregnancy, and other forms of exploitation. As a leading advocate for children’s rights, we provide a platform for dialogue and advocacy on contentious issues impacting children and young women.

As part of strategic approach, we prioritize empowering children and young women

to understand and assert their rights, strengthening child protection and participation systems, and engaging men and boys to promote gender equality. We collaborate closely with the government, development partners, and other like-minded organizations at both the national and international levels to advance the cause of children’s rights. Furthermore, CDF serves as the secretariat for two prominent national networks in Tanzania: The Tanzania Ending Child Marriage Network (TECMN) and the MenEngage Tanzania (MET) Network. Through these networks, we intensify our endeavors and advocate for positive reforms in policies and practices that impact children and young women across the nation.



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Organization Objectives

CDF overall objective is geared to transforming lives of children through influencing public attitudes, policies, strengthening the capacity and agency of both duty bearers and right holders, on legal and human rights issues. Specifically, our objectives include:

- i. To explicate human rights-based approaches in creating awareness on the rights of children as well as the role of community and the current global trends and contemporary changes to promote social justice;
- ii. To document best practices of human rights-based approaches in promoting and protecting children's rights in education, health, and poverty eradication;
- iii. To protect children from harmful traditions such as child marriage and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) by providing a forum for dialogue and a voice for children and child-rights' advocates;
- iv. To organize, manage and support national and local level conferences, workshops, meetings, dialogues, and other forums relevant to promote children's rights and social justice; and
- v. To facilitate collaboration with Local and Central Government Authorities; Community Based Organizations (CBOs), individuals, non-governmental organizations (Local and International), higher learning institutions, and bilateral agencies to support the efforts towards safeguarding children's rights.



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Vision and Mission



Our Vision

CDF envisages a Tanzania landscape where children dwell in a context permeated with dignity and where social justice is upheld.



Mission

Promotion of children's rights for most vulnerable children, through creation of working forums that empower children, families and communities.

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Core Values



Gender Equality

Involves mainly creation and promotion of appropriate conditions necessary for access to resources, benefits, and participation for both sexes.



Partnership and Participation

Non imposition or suppression of views or opinions on others, but instead working together towards consensus building.



Voice of Children

Ensuring that children's voices are audible to guide or inform the development process accordingly.



7 Our Niche

Broad Children Protection and Participation; We broaden children protection and participation through collaborative efforts with local authorities, innovative tools for consultation, and capacity building for positive community changes.

Facilitative Children Empowerment; We use facilitative children empowerment where children select their own agenda, tools or solutions and determine how to manage their affairs.

Strong Collective Spirit in Institution Building; We use inclusivity by involving diverse individuals and communities in institution building and avoid handpicking of institutions to foster a dynamic process guided by internal perception and analysis.

8 Our Approach

Amplifying voices – CDF supports and amplifies voices of vulnerable children and young people and advocates through clubs and networks in ending Violence Against Young Women and Children (VAWC).

Mobilising influencers – CDF partners with organisations that compound CDF's impact and voice.

Strengthening protection mechanisms – CDF creates alliances with organisations and structures that may be better able to prevent escalation and ensure an appropriate response in order to protect vulnerable children and young people.

Promoting rights – CDF ramps up actions and leads response against VAWC by promoting and realising the rights of the most vulnerable children and young people and ensuring action is taken through laws.

Transforming lives – CDF endorses knowledge development and training events that empowers the most vulnerable children and young people and sustain the change process.

Building evidence - CDF produces an evidence-based analysis in building comprehensive, gender-sensitive protection mechanisms and visibility in influencing or engineering change that will minimize children and young women's vulnerability.

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Strategic Plan Areas

The work of CDF is reinforced by its five-year Strategic Plan (2022-2026), which aims to create enabling environments and platforms that empower vulnerable children and young women to break the silence around violence in Tanzania. This Strategic Plan contributes to the attainment of Sustainable Development Goal 3, 4, 5 and 16 and Agenda 2030. Moreover, this strategic plan contributes to United Nations Conventions on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the child, The African Charter on Human and People's Rights, The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), and The Tanzania Law of a Child.

The below diagram summarizes the CDF strategic areas:



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CDF Programmes

CDF's programmes are aligned with its strategic plan's thematic areas, focusing on addressing violence against young women, children, and gender injustice. These programmes aim to empower children and young women by educating them about their rights and creating systems for prevention, protection, and justice that respond effectively to cases of violence. By enhancing community knowledge, CDF ensures that the community can advocate for the rights of children and young women. Specifically, CDF's programmes concentrate on four key thematic areas:

Girls and Young Women Empowerment

This program is designed to empower girls of age 9 – 19 years to realize their education, health, and economic rights by strengthening girls' and young women's knowledge, skills, and attitudes in addressing the socio-economic challenges they are facing.

Child Protection and Participation

CDF focuses on strengthening child protection and participation by working closely with the children, Government, and other stakeholders to strengthen the capacity and agency of both duty bearers and right holders, for effective preventive and responsive actions against children rights violence.

Access to Quality Justice among Child Survivors and Offenders

Programmes under this strategic theme aims to improve protocols and practices of justice chain actors such as investigations, prosecutions, and court proceedings of juvenile cases in Tanzania through strengthening the capacity of duty bearers to ensure timely justice to survivors, which includes addressing cases attrition, longer investigations, access to quality psychosocial services for recovery from trauma, and court proceedings.

Men and Boys Engagement

Focuses on engaging men and boys to promote gender equality and the welfare of children and young women. It aims to empower men and boys to realize their role in ending gender-based violence and promoting gender inclusive parenting. The interventions challenge men to understand that GBV and toxic masculinity affect, not only young women and children but also men's health, social and economic wellbeing. It seeks to bring together men to transform their attitude from perpetrators of violence to allies in ending gender-based violence.

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Beneficiaries



CDF's programmes involve direct and indirect beneficiaries. Direct beneficiaries include girls, young women, men and boys who are right holders and main victims of violence. Indirect beneficiaries include key decision makers, law enforcers, school management, universities, religious leaders influential people, caregivers and community leaders.



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Geographical Coverage

The CDF is registered and approved to operate in Tanzania Mainland. CDF operations cover both national and grassroots level. CDF's projects areas are Dar es Salaam, Tarime and Mpwapwa Districts in Mara and Dodoma Region, respectively. Also, CDF extended its work to other areas such as Kigoma and Manyara Regions.



CDF Project Areas

Dar es Salam

Dodoma

Manyara

Mara

Kigoma



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Major Achievements



CDF supported and amplified voices of vulnerable children and young people through the establishment of 117 (89 in-school and 28 out-of-school) clubs on various themes namely Sexual Reproductive Health, Female Genital Mutilation, child marriage, teenage pregnancy and HIV prevention. School clubs have been instrumental in helping children to air their voice and to confidently report abuse cases to authorities.



CDF upgraded skills and tools and led providers to respond promptly response against VAWC through strengthened protection and justice system by capacitating some duty bearers including Police Officers, health care providers, magistrates, prosecutors, investigators and Social Welfare Officers on child rights, gender-based violence and reporting mechanisms and procedures. This increased knowledge and accountability of law enforcers in addressing VAWC cases.



Through MenEngage, CDF mobilizes and engages men and boys in the promotion of gender equality through training on inclusive parenting, campaigns that promote children's rights, and ending violence against young women and children. CDF has established fathers' groups in Tarime, Mpwapwa, and Kitunda districts to engage more men and boys in various interventions to end all forms of gender-based violence, toxic masculinity and promote gender equality.

✓ CDF initiated the movement of ending child marriage in Tanzania by advocating for amendment of Law of Marriage Act, 1971 and joined forces with other stakeholders in advocating for re-entry policy. Further, CDF has embraced partnership with other individual organizations, coalitions, networks and Universities to advance dialogue and discussion on issues affecting children.

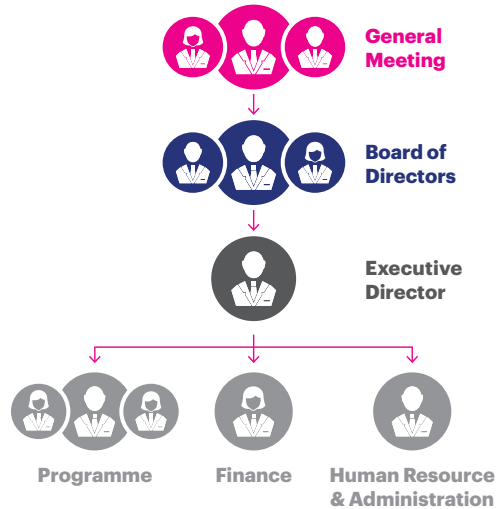
✓ Through TuWezeshe Akina Dada Young Women Leadership Fellowship Program, CDF has successfully brought out a cadre of 30 young women leaders who are championing change in their communities both in public, private and political sectors. Moreover, girls and young women are using media to mobilize other young people, community members and policy makers to advocate for social and further enhance access to justice for girls and young women. Over 50% of the program beneficiaries have been able to establish NGOs, and others hold reputable positions in the government institutions.

✓ CDF strengthened child protection structures through constructed 3 police gender and children's desks in Manyara. In addition, CDF rehabilitated and equipped 3 gender and children's desks in Kigoma Region. This helped the urgency in access to justice by child survivors of violence; and police to handle cases in confidential manner. Also, CDF supported provision of Audio-visual equipment to Mpwawa Juvenile Court that enabled the court to adjudicate juvenile cases in a child friendly manner.



14 Organization Structure

The governance structure of CDF is divided in three categories which are Annual General Meeting, Board of Directors and Management. All these structures work hand in hand to support the core functions of CDF. The diagram below illustrates the organization structures.



15 CDF Staff

Employed Staff

CDF has a pool of qualified staff with diverse qualifications and experiences who are zealous and dedicated to the achievement of the vision and mission of the organization. The organization has staff with multiple skills and expertise in project management, finance, monitoring, and evaluation as well as NGO experience. They have vast experience in children and young women rights, gender equality, young women empowerment, and VAWC prevention and protection.

Volunteers and Internship

Children's Dignity Forum (CDF) believes in nurturing the potential and abilities of volunteers and interns to learn in the field of child rights. Our volunteer and internship programs offer a unique opportunity for individuals to gain practical experience, develop skills, and contribute to our mission of promoting and protecting the rights of children.



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Partners and Supporters

Development Partners

These are partners that have facilitated CDF technically and financially. CDF works with various development partners including Bilaterals, Foundations, UN Agencies, Embassies, International and Local CSOs.

Implementing Partners

These include partners who have been collaborating with CDF in implementing its programme. CDF works with various implementing partners including; The Government of United Republic of Tanzania, academic institutions and NGOs.

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Partners Recommendations

“ It was a pleasure of working closely with CDF on various projects including challenging project. Their exceptional problem-solving skills and attention to detail were instrumental in its success. I highly recommend CDF for their dedication, professionalism, and ability to deliver results.

“ I have enjoyed my time working with CDF Team, and came to know them as a truly valuable asset to child protection work. They are honest, dependable, and incredibly hardworking.

“ I learned CDF's work through Tuwezeshe Wadada Project. Their commitment to the project from designing and implementation stage brought significant impact to the young girls including being independent and confident to overcome GBV risks. I truly applaud CDF for their commitment, confidence and capacity to perform.

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Glimpse of Our Activities





○ **Embrace Diversity**

○ **Together We Thrive**

○ **Every Child's Voice Matters**



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