



## CAUCUS for CHILDREN'S RIGHTS Campaign to Protect Children

CAMPAIGN eNEWS



### eNEWS: 12 - February - 2010: The Children's Act is now enacted...

We have official information that the President of Tanzania, Hon. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, assented to the Law of the Child Act (2009) on 20th November 2009.

This was the date when the world commemorated the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The Act now awaits official gazetting by the Minister for Community Development, Gender and Children for it to become operational.

### CCR's Court Appeal against the Removal of Undesirable Persons Act goes ahead...

On the same day that the President assented to the new Law of the Child, CCR's court application for the Repeal of an outdated law that permits Municipal authorities to round-up street children was rejected by the High Court of Tanzania. We are appealing this decision, particularly in the light of the Government's new stance that the best interests of children are not always aligned with those of adults. We have been informed that our application for leave to appeal to the court of Appeal of Tanzania has been fixed for mention on 17th March 2010. The application is before Justice Shayo of the High Court of Tanzania in Arusha.

### CCR finalises its strategic plan for 2010-2013...

The problem situation is that 50% of Tanzanians are children. Children's needs are sidelined in national policies, budgeting and governance. Children are not accorded the same entitlements and human rights as Tanzanian adults. This results in a lack of will to protect them from violence and neglect. This compromises their potential as the human capital of tomorrow and Tanzania's chances of achieving its aspirations for development.

CCR's goal is to create popular awareness that Tanzania's future depends on the treatment of its children and thus that children's best interests and protection of their rights must inform policies and practices.

CCR understands that a reciprocal relationship exists between popular attitudes, the policy environment, budgets, systems and the experience of childhood and so CCR works to influence each level. CCR engages with the structural forces and dynamics that affect children, and mediates that reality with those organisations who implement change efforts for children.

Over the next three years CCR will be working in three key areas:

1. Campaigning and Lobbying
2. Modelling and Innovating
3. Information, skill and contact exchange

[Download our strategic plan](#)

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### 1. Campaigning and Lobbying

The 50% Campaign calls on Tanzanians to give children at least 50% of their attention and to protect them from violence. This campaign is an unprecedented effort that reaches across civil society, the private sector and the Government. 50% will spark national awareness that Tanzania's future depends on the treatment of its children today. 50% strives to effect a transformation in how we live with our children and protect them from violence and marginalization.

50% raises popular awareness about Tanzania's startling population demographic and the implications for the way we treat children. It educates Tanzanians about the impact of violence on children, their development and society, and popularises the Law of the Child, raising awareness among parents, teachers, health professionals, the police and judiciary about their duties to children under the Act. It lobbies for an end to institutionalised violence by calling for an amendment to the Law of the Child to prohibit corporal punishment and the round-up of children on the streets by Municipal Authorities.



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Using a variety of multi-media vehicles and tactics 50% aims to reach people across the entire nation. 50% will be launched on the Day of the African Child (June 16th, 2010) and will catalyse popular and political energy to protect and invest in children. At the conclusion of the Campaign and to celebrate the one-year Anniversary of the passing of the Law of the Child, on 4th November 2010, we will evaluate and publicise the impact and changes that have occurred for Tanzania's children since their rights were enshrined in law.

This campaign will be the first in Tanzania to explicitly address issues of violence against children. The Law of the Child offers a timely legal framework that defines children's rights in law. 50% will publicly broach issues that have traditionally been considered limited to the domestic domain and thus free from public scrutiny. These include discussions about how parents care for their children, how teachers discipline their students and how children can obtain redress in situations of abuse. It will also address a subject that has been taboo for too long, the extent and normalisation of violence towards children, and the impacts on this in terms of human and national development.

### 2. Modelling and Innovating

The Law of the Child presents a real opportunity and impetus to engage seriously with child protection in Tanzania. It offers a legal framework that criminalises the abuse and neglect of children. We want to protect children from witnessing or being the victims of violence or neglect and from exposure to developmentally inappropriate behaviours and environments.

CCR is will innovate in developing a locally viable models of child protection and in demonstrating alternative ways of working with the Government to provide critical social services. We will do this by instigating a public private partnership (PPP) with the Arusha Local Government Authority. Together we will develop and implement a model of coherent, integrated and quality child protection services. These will benefit children who have witnessed or been victims of violence or neglect and those who have come into contact with the law.

This project will provide evidence of what works and what not in child protection, it will innovate different ways for Government and Civil Society to engage with each other as partners, and will establish a set of minimum quality standards for agencies working with children. It will also provide a model of child protection that can be replicated and scaled up by other Local Government Authorities.

The Arusha Local Government Authority is committed to: addressing the current fragmentation and poor quality of services for children, instigating minimum standards for agencies working with children, investing the LGA's own sources of income into recognised service providers and demonstrating that child protection is a State obligation.

The process of modelling and developing a child protection system in Arusha has 4 phases:

Phase 1: Sharing evidence about child protection and creating buy-in across state and civil society actors by: (1) Engaging in Public Expenditure Tracking to find out how much public money currently protects children in Arusha and building an evidence base of how child protection is sidelined in national finances and attention. Sharing these findings with the LGA, the Parliamentary Committee on Community Development and staff from the Ministry of Community Development, Gender and Children and the Social Welfare Department in order to catalyse energy around funding child protection. (2) Building a shared understanding about the incidence, impact of abuse and violence amongst LGA staff and councillors, potential service providers and state agencies such as the police. This will also enable actors to distinguish between the proposed child protection intervention and other poverty focussed efforts that are currently underway in the city.

Phase 2: Creating modalities for public private partnership in child protection by: Agreeing on critical child protection services that are required and their cost implications, Agree modalities for establishing a public private partnership with the Arusha LGA by: agreeing on critical child protection services that are required and cost implications, identifying the role of the LGA vis a vis service providers, developing a process whereby potential service providers may tender and agreeing timeframes for tendering and piloting of services, developing protocols on how to work within a child rights framework, minimum standards to ensure quality assurance.

Phase 3: Modelling a child protection system in Arusha that is run by a number of recognised service providers who tendered to the LGA and operate within the minimum standards described below.

Phase 4: Replicating and scaling up child protection systems with other LGA's.

### 3. Information, skill and contact exchange

The CCR network offers members a reflective space, intellectual stimulation and an ability to connect their activity to the larger developmental picture. CCR will model a form of network that crosses the sectoral boundaries of civil society, government and business



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and which actually adds value to members' efforts with children. It may become an exemplar that other agencies may replicate, but its primary objective is to enable its members to engage with children in a more developmental way. This is at two levels:

Firstly, understanding and articulating the fact that compromising children's own potential for development impacts on Tanzania's chances of achieving its own developmental aspirations, since children are the human capital of tomorrow, and secondly, improving their own services to children by understanding what children need at critical points in the life-course, the importance of attachment on a child's brain development and moving their services away from reacting to children's plight to engaging with children as actors in their own right.

This involves providing opportunities for members to share, learn and do things differently. CCR does this through three mechanisms; namely information sharing, skills sharing and contact sharing. A child rights information hub at [www.ccr-tz.org](http://www.ccr-tz.org) will provide online access to all research and policy about children in Tanzania. It will have a function whereby interested parties can submit their information online and will become an accessible portal for anyone interested in children in Tanzania. It will also provide information about research and funding opportunities.

An annual calendar of skills development opportunities will be organised for CCR members. These will include:

- Seminars and sharing opportunities that enable members to scan the environment as it affects children, align their strategies and programming to the policy context in Tanzania and enhance the developmental perspective of their work with children. These will also be opportunities for members to collectively track policy intentions and assess whether they are translating into improved outcomes for children.
- At the beginning of each year a questionnaire will be sent to members to seek out their training priorities. Specific, tailor-made training for members, will then be facilitated within the following three domains: 1. Competencies in managing our organisations, such as project development and planning, HR systems and procedures, and developing communications strategies. 2. Understanding and influencing the development environment, such as engaging with large-scale change, influencing and working within the policy context and scenario planning. 3. Quality engagement with children, such as positive parenting and child development.
- Finally, the CCR will support member organisations to work in under-served areas and populations or to innovate new ways of working. In 2010 this will include supporting Action for Children to establish Tanzania's first Child Helpline, and to work with ECOLI to raise awareness within the the local Government Authority about the needs of early years children and the need to establish services for this group.
- In terms of exchanging contacts the CCR will provide an online directory of CCR members, with details of other actors in the sector, such as reputable consultants, researchers and their focal areas, and service providers for children.

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#### We're still recruiting!

#### **JOB OPPORTUNITY: Are you the CCR's "Communicator, Coordinator, Catalyst"?**

The CCR is seeking a proactive, experienced social entrepreneur with more than 6 years experience in the field of child rights to play a dynamic and multifaceted role. In fact, there are three intersecting roles within this position: 1. Institutional development of the Caucus for Children's Rights; 2. Child Protection programme development; 3. Communicating and campaigning. Each of these roles requires equal attention, effort and inspiration. The CCR's preferred candidate is a dynamic self-starter who can work largely unsupervised, who is experienced in group facilitation, organisational development and advocacy for child rights in Tanzania. The CCR also deeply values a willing spirit that is committed to collaboration, professional development and lifelong learning...

>> Download the complete job poster <<

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Half of Tanzania's population is under the age of 18.  
The future depends on how we treat these youth today.

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