



# NEWSLETTER

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## CSOs DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REFLECTION MEETING ON CSOs' FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY



Effectiveness, Challenges and Recommendations of the **Online NGOs information System** in Tanzania

September 2022

## CSOs DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REFLECTION MEETING ON CSOs' FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY





Welcome to our special newsletter of the 2022 NGOs Forum side event on *Financial Spaces for Sustainability of Local and Grassroots NGOs in Tanzania and Launching of the Report on the Effectiveness, Challenges and Recommendations of the NGOs Information Management System.*

The 2022 NGOs Forum is organized by the Office of NGO-Registrar Tanzania mainland in collaboration with the National Council of NGOs. (NaCONGO) convening on 03rd to 4th October 2022 at Jakaya Kikwete Convention Centre where the official guest is expected to be the Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania, Hon. Kassim Majaliwa.

This year theme is **“Non-Governmental Organizations Sustainability: Stakeholders Responsibility.”** Recognizing the importance of the Forum, THRDC organized a side event on Financial Spaces for Sustainability of Local and Grassroots NGOs participated by about 180 CSO’s directors.

The side event was officiated by **NGOs Board Chair, Honorable Mwantumu Mahiza, and closed by Honorable Dorothy Gwajima-Minister for Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups. Also, the event was participated by various representatives from the government, civil society organizations and development partners.**

The event was an opportunity to discuss financial challenges and spaces for sustainability of local NGOs in Tanzania. The Coalition in collaboration with the National Council of NGOs (NaCONGO) has utilized this opportunity to launch the **Report on the Effectiveness, Challenges and Recommendations of the NGOs Information Management System.**

**The CSOs Directors reflection meeting finally deliberated the following resolutions:**

1. There should be a meeting with donors and government representatives to discuss challenges and recommendations on Financial Accountability and Sustainability of NGOs in Tanzania
2. Experienced NGOs and INGOs should build capacity of grassroot NGOs on resource mobilization.
3. NGOs should continue to provide transparent/accurate information to regulators and cooperate in analyzing the information for better planning.
4. A dashboard for presenting funding information should be developed.
5. There should be a score card for determining internal NGO fund management capacity
6. There should be deeper research to determine the best ways to tax NGOs.
7. NGOs should increase engagement with lawmakers on taxation challenges.
8. International NGOs should normalize partnering with local NGOs in their program’s implementation
9. There should be a quota system in funding of local NGOs
10. NGOs should look at possible funding opportunities from the internal private sector.
11. Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) and the Registrar of NGOs should communicate regarding NGO taxation challenges and engage law makers for policy and legal reforms.
12. Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) should provide tax education and prepare NGOs tax tool kit guiding on tax issues relevant for non-profit organization.
13. The Online NGOs Information System should be in Swahili language accessible to more users and asked the registrar’s office to dully provide feedback to the users.

Allow me to drop my pen for you to enjoy your reading.

**Advocate Onesmo Olengurumwa- THRDC National Coordinator**

## Dr. Gwajima applauds the NGO Registrar, NaCoNGO and THRDC for supporting local Grassroots NGO in Tanzania

Minister for Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups, Dr. Dorothy Gwajima has applauded the NGO Registrar, NaCoNGO and THRDC for coordinating and capacitating local NGOs in Tanzania as part of social development.



*Minister for Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups, Dr. Dorothy Gwajima during the closing remarks on Financial accountability and sustainability of NGOs together with the launching the Report on the Effectiveness, Challenges and Recommendations of the NGOs Information Management System on 2nd October 2022 in Dodoma.*

**“**The government recognizes and appreciates your contribution to social development. I congratulate the THRDC , NaConGO, The Office of NGO Registrar and EAHRI for being a great link for many NGOs that are its members. This has been a catalyst for the change of many things that lead to the growth of social development, especially in education and health. If we say let’s get CSOs out of these sectors, things will change a lot!

**Said Dr. Gwajima**

**”**

## Mama Mwantumu appreciates CSOs support and calls for accountability and more partnership

NGOs Coordination Board Chairperson, Honorable Mwantumu Mahiza has congratulated THRDC and all CSOs for the great work they are doing contributing to implementation of national development plans through capacity building to NGOs that are its members. She also, conveyed greetings from the President and said that *Her Excellency, Samia Suluhu Hassan* recognizes human rights defenders work, and the Government appreciates their work. She also spoke about financial accountability and sustainability as a direction of solving raising challenges.

“ I would like to congratulate you in your good job of supporting government initiatives towards solving problems to our people. We need to strengthened this relation, let’s get rid of the misconceptions of accusing the government and unite to protect human rights and build unity in the development of our country  
Said Hon.Mwantumu Mahiza



*Hon.Mwantumu Mahiza, NGOs Coordination Board Chairperson during her opening remarks on Financial accountability and sustainability of NGOs together with the launching the Report on the Effectiveness, Challenges and Recommendations of the NGOs Information Management System on 2nd October 2022 at Morena Hotel Dodoma.*

She also added on financial accountability and sustainability by advising NGOs to be responsible and focus on the core values, observe rule of law and their main objective. **“Score card will help a lot in the removal of organizations that do not fulfill the requirements they should do.”**



In his opening remarks, THRDC National Coordinator thanked the Government, CSOs, Development Partners and other Human rights stakeholders for continued support to protect and defend human rights in the country. Mr Olungurumwa highlighted the work played by the Coalition and calls for more partnership.

“The Coalition has played a role in building the capacity of human rights defenders, civil society organizations, governmental and non-governmental institutions to ensure that there is a good environment for human rights defenders to operate and thus continue to improve the lives of the citizens. The NGO sector still, faces many challenges and we call for collaboration in strengthening the NGO sector concluded Olungurumwa.”

## Human Rights Defenders called upon observing national values

*“There are other rights that conflict with our culture. As a nation, we have our own culture, we have our own values, we have national values. If there are rights that contravenes our traditions and customs, they are not our rights because it’s not our culture. We have to fight those who go against the customs of Tanzania under the guise of human rights.”* Concluded Hon. Mwantumu



Participants of the meeting following up during the “Financial accountability and sustainability of NGOs” on 2nd October 2022 in Dodoma.

## Financial accountability and Sustainability: A dream to NGOs' Sector Development

02nd October 2022 has grounded the 2022 NGOs forum through various discussions on financial accountability and sustainability. One of the burning panel of discussion was “the Financial Accountability and Sustainability of NGOs in Tanzania: Reclaiming NGOs' Growth and Financial Sustainability” Discussants from various organizations has discussed challenges facing the growth of NGOs in Tanzania including financial sustainability.



*Ms Vickness Mayao, Registrar of NGOs-Tanzania mainland during her discussion on Trends of NGOs Funding.*



*Jane Magigita-Executive Director of Equality for Growth moderating a panel of discussion on Financial accountability and sustainability*

Vickness Mayao, Registrar of NGOs Tanzania mainland highlighted on trends of NGOs funding in Tanzania on decrease of funding to local NGO especially in 2020 and 2021 while funding has increased in 2022 while NGO s continue complaining. She provided her observation that,

**“**Most of NGOs do not have specific focus, they move according to donor interests. This reduces measurability of outcomes hence reducing donor trust  
Said Madam Vickness

*In her rejoinder, Madam Vickness has advised on NGO-Private sector divide, “I recommend tapping into the private sector for funding like we do with international donors and Community Shared Value. NGOs should also look at internal opportunities or private sectors to rise their own fund and reduce financial dependence.”*

*Concluded Madam Vickness Mayao.*

**”**

On his part, Zanzibar NGOs' Registrar, Mr. Ahmed Khalid Abdulla has insisted on collaboration and working as a team to strengthen the NGO sector.



*“The problems you are having are ours too, Let’s work together to solve them. Lets work together and share knowledge and resources on financial sustainability to push our development agenda.*

**Ahmed Khalid, NGO Registrar Zanzibar**

Director of the Foundation for Civil Society (FCS) Mr. Francis Kiwanga has motivated to strategize for their sustainability. Mr. Kiwanga insisted that;



*“There should be accountability and the ability to question the funds that comes in the name of funding of Local CSOs, alot of funds are coming but accountability is invisible. There are also many foreign organizations registering to operate in our country. Let’s sit down and talk, to find out what is needed in the funding area. I speak with pain because a lot of funds are coming and local CSOs are not benefiting.*

**Mr. Francis Kiwanga**  
**Executive Director of the Foundation for Civil Society (FCS)**



*“Many organizations receive funds from donors for specific goals. But, do we consider the capacity of these organizations? We should consider their managerial capacity and technical capacity. Organization with limited capacity, should be capacitated to manage projects and funds. Low capacity should not be a reason for funds to be directed to International CSOs, ignoring local NGOs.*

**Mr. Audax Rukonge, Director ANSAF**



In her testimony, **Lightness Bayo**, Director HOPE TANZANIA from Karatu shared her experience on financial sustainability, how her organization has sustained for 13 years without Donor fundings.



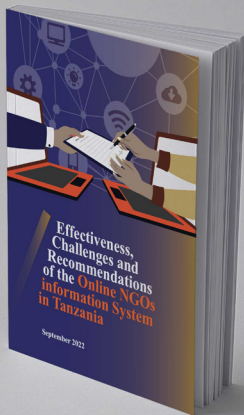
*“In 2009, I mobilized and gathered a number of girls who conceived unplanned pregnancy and told them not to give up. I asked them to learn art works and handcraft. This brought great success, now I have Lake Eyasi Vocational Training School and Lake Eyasi dispensary.”*

*“Ms Bayo added that, Funding should start at the grassroots. For projects to exist you must have something to feed the projects. The best way to financial sustainability is through investment. Invest in offices and work tools”*

*Director HOPE TANZANIA from Karatu sharing her experience on financial sustainability for 13 years*

### Ms. Lisa Kagaruki

*– Head of Member Affairs department presenting the report on behalf of the research team*



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*A group photo of Tanzania CSOs Directors together with Minister for Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups, Dr. Dorothy Gwajima*

On her part, Dr. Lilian Badi, Chair of the National Council of NGOs complimented THRDC for convening the side event as CSOs Directors Annual Reflection Meeting on Financial Accountability and Sustainability.



*“NaCONGO is there for you and we will continue to collaborate in these discussions to solve the challenges we face to strengthen our sector of non-governmental organizations in Tanzania. I congratulate you for organizing this discussion, the recommendations made, will be taken to guest of honor of the NGOs Forum*

**Dr. Lilian Badi, Chair of the National Council of NGOs**

## Launching of the Report on the Effectiveness, Challenges and Efficiency of the NGOs Information Management System

THRDC in collaboration with NaCoNGO, The office of NGO registrar and East Africa Human Rights Research Institute (EAHRRI) has been responsive by utilizing an opportunity to develop and launch the Report on the Effectiveness, Challenges and Recommendations of the NGOs Information Management System. This report was presented to NGOs stakeholders, and launched by NGOs Coordination Board Chairperson, **Honorable Mwantumu Mahiza**.

### REGISTRATION OF DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REFLECTION MEETING ON CSOs' FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY



*Hon. Honorable Mwantumu Mahiza, NGOs Coordination Board Chairperson at the middle cutting a ribbon to launch the Report on the Effectiveness, Challenges and Recommendations of the NGOs Information Management System on 2nd October 2022 in Dodoma.*

## TRA lauds for Tax improvements in favor of NGOs

The side event was remarkable with alive discussion on Tax Implications and Challenges affecting CSOs. From the Tanzania Revenue Authority Mr. Octavian Kichenje highlighted on the Tax systems improvements that favor NGOs stating that,



*“The amendments of the VAT Act introduced exemptions to NGOs, increasing the employee number subject to S.D.L tax charges to 10 and NGOs with charitable status are not allowed to do non-charitable business tax laws recognize TRUSTS as entities that can be used to run non-charitable activities for the benefit of the NGO, however legal reforms requires deeper engagement with lawmakers.*”

**Mr. Octavian Kichenje**  
**Commissioner from Tanzania Revenue Authority**



*“On her part, Ms. Rehema Tukai Contributing on Tax exemptions argued that; Tax education is still scant among NGOs. They should continue educating themselves on the matter. Many NGOs do not access tax exemptions on imported material/donations. Income generating activities within NGOs are subject to complex regulations and requirements for being treated as activities beneficial for NGOs. They are often treated as normal businesses*”

On other part, Mr. Clemence Mwombeki who is the THRDC Zonal Coordinator has advised TRA and the office of NGO Registrar to collaborate with law makers and private partners on issues related to taxation, especially on the challenges of tax.



*“ TRA and the Registrar of NGOs should collaborate regarding NGO taxation challenges and engage law makers for policy and legal reforms. The private sector is reluctant to fund NGOs because they have their own financial limitations. We should also seek audience with the private sector.*

**Mr. Clemence Mwombeki**

## OTHER NOTABLE QUOTATIONS



*“We need to remove the annual fees and charges. We are asking for the fees to be reduced because there is a time when an organization is having no funds at all, so we are asking for someone to get at least two years to look for themselves. We also ask NaCoNGO to collaborate with the organization in the district meetings.”*

**Evena Massae, Director COSUPED  
Daressalaam**



*“Grassroot NGOs are doing great work, the biggest problem is funding. How do we help grassroots NGOs to support themselves and do their work without a lack of funds, in order to promote development?”*

**Lina Misidai, Director BUGARA  
Organization**



*“In my opinion from 2010 to 2019 there was an increase of funding for donor-based CSOs, International CSOs and unspecified locations. But in developing countries, funding for CSOs has been decreasing.”*

**Mr. Audax Rukonge, Director ANSAF**

# PHOTO GALLERY









