



EAST AFRICAN
HUMAN RIGHTS
INSTITUTE



SHORT COURSE OPPORTUNITY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

CONTINUING LEGAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION
COURSES TO HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS IN TANZANIA

MODULE ONE: CLE ON LEGAL AID PROVISION TO HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS
IN TANZANIA MAINLAND AND ZANZIBA

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The University of Dar es Salaam (School of Law) in a collaboration with the Law School of Tanzania, The East Africa Human Rights Institute have designed Continued Legal and Human Rights Education programs (short courses) to Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) focusing on various areas of human rights and access to justice. Specific Modules are designed based on the needs from the practice and founded on the interest of sponsors.

This first Module on legal aid provision will be offered to HRDs operating in Dar es Salaam, Coastal and Tanga Regions (East Coast Zone) to be followed by Zanzibar Zone and Lake Zone (Mwanza, Mara and Simiyu) under sponsorship of Tanzania Human Rights Defenders (THRDC). This program has been designed to empower HRDs working on legal aid services on various aspects pertaining to legal aid provisions including regulatory frameworks governing legal aid provision, legal and practical aspects of paralegal works in Tanzania, HRDs ethics and mandates to provide legal aid in Tanzania. This short course will also provide a space for participants to discuss and chat out various challenges affecting their operations as well as chatting the best way to improve and sustain legal services across the country. This first Module (CLHRE) is partially sponsored by the Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition



1.1 Background

Human Rights Defender can be any one with a profile attributed to human rights promotion, protection, and access to justice. Any person qualifies to be called an HRD so long as s/he is engaged in activities related to human rights promotion and protection. This definition may therefore include professional and non- professional human rights workers, volunteers, journalists, lawyers, paralegals, social workers and whoever who does human rights work in long term or on occasional basis.

Human Rights Defenders play a crucial role in promoting and protecting human rights, ensuring access to justice, and providing legal assistance to marginalized and vulnerable individuals and groups. Among other things HRDs protect and promote human rights through the following legally and peaceful approaches.

- a) Documenting violations of human rights.
- b) Conducting human rights research and advocacy
- c) Seeking remedies for victims of such violations through the provision of legal, psychological, medical, and other support.
- d) Combating cultures of impunity which serve to cloak systematic and repeated breaches of human rights and fundamental freedoms.
- e) Mainstreaming human rights culture and information on human rights defenders at national, regional, and international level.
- f) Provide human rights trainings and education.
- g) Seeking and dissemination of information related to human rights.
- h) Providing legal support through legal aid to ensure access to justice.
- i) Conducting human rights awareness sessions to the public

Tanzania, like many other countries, faces various human rights challenges, including limited access to justice and legal services, particularly among disadvantaged groups. Human rights defenders, including lawyers, legal organizations, civil society groups, social workers and individual trained but HRDs (paralegals), have been at the forefront of addressing these challenges. They provide legal aid services to individuals who cannot afford legal representation, advocate for policy reforms, and raise awareness about human rights issues. However, the issues of capacity both financial and legal capacity to deliver this service to those in need has been a great challenge to the legal aid sector in Tanzania. One of the strategies developed to address knowledge gap challenges is provision of continue legal education to human rights defenders involved in legal aid services in Tanzania

1.2 The Role of Human Rights Defenders in the Provision of Legal Aid Services

Human rights defenders play a multifaceted role in the provision of legal aid services in Tanzania. Their contributions include providing legal aid services, including legal advice, representation, and support in court proceedings. They assist individuals in navigating the justice system, ensuring their rights are protected and promoting access to justice for marginalized communities. HRDs work towards improving laws, regulations, and policies related to legal aid, ensuring they are inclusive and accessible to all. They also raise public awareness about human rights issues, including the importance of legal aid services. Through campaigns, workshops, and community outreach, they educate individuals about their rights, the available legal remedies, and how to access legal aid services.

1.3 Capacity Gaps in Legal Aid Services

To effectively address legal aid needs in Tanzania, it is crucial to identify the capacity gaps that human rights defenders face. Some of the common capacity gaps include limited Resources. Many human rights defenders operate with limited financial resources, making it challenging to provide comprehensive legal aid services. Insufficient funding restricts their ability to hire qualified staff, maintain offices, and support their clients throughout legal processes.

Moreover, HRDs lack specialized training in legal aid services, including areas such as legal research, advocacy, and case management. Enhancing their knowledge and skills through targeted training programs would significantly contribute to their effectiveness. Limited access to legal databases, case law, and updated legal resources also hinders their ability to offer comprehensive legal aid services. Furthermore, geographic and outreach limitations impede the provision of legal aid services in remote and rural areas. Human rights defenders may face challenges reaching marginalized communities due to limited infrastructure, transportation, and awareness of available services.



Therefore, comprehensive continue legal and human rights education is among the strategies developed to address the capacity related gaps. This will improve skills of HRDs who provide legal aid services specifically on legal research, case management, advocacy, legal compliance, legal aid ethics and knowledge on relevant laws and regulations. Moreover, these training sessions provide a good platform for sharing legal information, case studies, and best practices among HRDs.

2.0 ABOUT THE PROPOSED COURSE

Towards the realization of this program goal, UDSM, EAHRI and the Law School of Tanzania have planned to conduct CLHRE sessions to HRDs operating in Tanga, Dar es Salaam and Coastal Regions. The training will be held for two days on 7th and 8th of August 2023.

2.1 Methodology

This is a two-day short course that will be offered physically at the Law School of Tanzania Premises from 7-8 August 2023. Throughout this training, facilitators will employ various methods and techniques including but not limited to; pre and post training survey to the participants, PowerPoint presentations, case studies, dialogues, experience sharing sessions, questions and answers, small group discussions, and energizers.

A team of experienced trainers and practitioners including retired judges, advocates, human rights experts, academicians from faculties of law at UDSM, Law School of Tanzania, EAHRI, as well as government officials from the Ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs will facilitate the sessions. This session will only accommodate about 60 eligible HRDs selected for this course.

2.2 Main Objective

The overall objective of the CLHRE in legal aid provision is to strengthen the HRDs capacity on legal aid provision. The sessions aim to improve HRDs capacity in delivering legal aid services to people in need and eventually contributing to the respect of human rights and access to justice in Tanzania and the current objective of the Mama Samia Legal Aid Campaign.

2.3 Specific Objectives

- a) To reorient and refresh the capacity of HRDs on legal and policy frameworks governing legal aid provision in Tanzania (including any current developments)
- b) To improve HRDs understanding on their mandates and boundaries in legal aid provision

- c) To discuss, analyze and document legal aid provision challenges facing HRDs at various levels.
- d) To improve the networking and knowledge sharing among HRDs who provide legal aid services in various parts of Tanzania.
- e) To improve the capacity of HRDs to handle and management legal cases at all levels (client, interview, Alternative dispute resolution, legal drafting, and legal representation)

2.4 Expected Outputs

- Improved skills and legal knowledge of HRDs who provide legal aid services.
- Improved legal aid services to human rights defenders who face legal challenges especially at grassroots level.
- Improved access of legal assistance to the underprivileged and vulnerable community
- Forged networking, engagement, and learning relationship among HRDs and the learning institutions
- Number of statutory non-compliance cases among HRDs working on legal aid reduced.
- The capacity of HRDs institutions to solicit and manage legal aid funds increased.

These series of interventions will contribute to the improved access to justice and respect of human rights in Tanzania. Also, the intervention will provide a space to discuss and deliberate on the existing legal aid provision challenges facing HRDs.

2.5 Who Can Apply for this CLHRE Module One

This course is meant for HRDs or HRDs institutions that offer legal aid to the public and to other groups of HRDs who face legal challenges. The following are the key eligibility criteria for applicants.

- a) Must be a registered organization under any law in Tanzania if applying as an HRDs organization.
- b) Must a registered legal aid provider under the registrar of legal aid?
- c) Must be working within Dar es Salaam, Tanga and Coast Region
- d) If applying as an individual HRD, provide a reference letter from the registrar of legal aid at your district or any recognized institution at district level.
- e) Added value will be those applying as THRDC Members operating in the East Coastal Zone
- f) Working with legal center at any learning institution
- g) Providing legal aid as police or prison officers in detention centers
- h) Community social workers at district level with authorized letters from their District officials
- i) Legal Aid Lawyers/advocates with proven records in legal aid services

2.6 Course Fees and How to Apply

This is a partially sponsored CLHRE by the THRDC targeting to improve the capacity of its members who provide legal aid services and other few non-member HRDs. For Interested HRDs may apply for this sponsored CLHRE opportunity through <https://forms.gle/4Ts7EFxn6Nk5kQxLA> and submit the application by 1st of August 2023. Only selected applicants will be officially invited for this course.

***For more details about this course
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