

WELCOME TO CHILDREN'S DIGNITY FORUM NEWSLETTER

HELLO! You've just opened a brand new CDF Quarterly Newsletter! And we are happy that you are our first reader!

Here, we will be sharing real stories, updates, opportunities, and our work in advancing children's rights in Tanzania.

For the latest updates, kindly subscribe and please visit our website or follow us on social media platforms! We are thrilled to have you on board.

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Mary, 14 during the residential training in Mpwapwa.

EMPOWERING GIRLS TO LEAD

CHILDREN'S Dignity Forum has created a new group of informed and confident girls who are prepared to speak out, seek justice, and become advocates for change in their communities following residential training for 40 girls in Mpwapwa District, Dodoma Region, on Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH), feminism, and reporting Gender-Based Violence (GBV).

"Now I know my education must come first," said Mary, 14, one of the participants.

The training connected participants with health and social work experts, equipping them with knowledge of their rights, where to report abuse, and the confidence to stay in school..



Panelist during TECMN Youth Forum

THE NEW CDF WEBSITE IS LIVE

WE are excited to announce the official launch of our new CDF website. Our new website is designed to bring our work, impact, and stories together in one clear and accessible space.

The website reflects our commitment to transparency, learning, and meaningful connections with our audiences and partners. We invite you to explore the site, learn more about our programmes, and stay connected as we continue to grow our digital presence.

Visit the [website](#) and discover what's new.



MPWAPWA LEADS THE WAY FOR SAFE SCHOOLS

CDF is implementing the Good School Toolkit Agile model, a proven, evidence-based approach that focuses on building positive relationships among teachers, learners, and school staff; creating a physically supportive learning environment for all learners; and strengthening school administration's commitment to transforming how learners, teachers, and parents experience their schools.

As implementation progresses, CDF values and appreciates support from individuals, partners, and supporters to expand our impact and reach more schools and children, as a safe learning space is a necessity.



#KATAAKATAKATA MEDIA CAMPAIGN



Lilian Kimath, Girls Empowerment & Capacity Building Officer, CDF, during the Jirani Show at Crown FM.

CDF as the secretariat of Tanzania Ending Child Marriage Network (TECMN), is currently implementing a media campaign aimed at ending child marriage while highlighting the importance of girls’ education. Through coordinated media engagement and public awareness messaging, the campaign sought to challenge harmful social norms such as Female Genital Mutilation and promote and encourage communities to support girls’ education.

By amplifying these messages across media platforms, we have reached wider audiences with information that reinforces the role of education in safeguarding girls’ futures and advancing community development. Continued partnerships with media stakeholders remain essential in sustaining dialogue and driving collective action toward ending child marriage.

CDF CALL TO SAFE SCHOOLS

CHILDREN’S Dignity Forum (CDF) actively participated in the Safe School Coalition planning meeting on 1st and 2nd March at Flomi Hotel, Morogoro. The meeting focused on finalizing the 2026 implementation plan, marking the second year of our three-year program to make schools safer and more inclusive for all children.

Speaking at the meeting, Irene Ernest, MEL and Program Coordinator at CDF, said,

“Our role in the Safe School Coalition is not just to make guidelines but to make sure they are followed. By tracking how schools use the Child Protection Guidelines, we can identify challenges early and support teachers and students in creating safe and welcoming learning environments.”

The coalition also agreed on priorities for 2026, building on previous efforts to strengthen impact and consistency. These measures aim to ensure that every school in Tanzania remains a safe, supportive, and inclusive place for children to learn and grow.



Irene Ernest, MEL and Program Coordinator-CDF during Safe School Coalition Meeting

IMPACT SPOTLIGHT

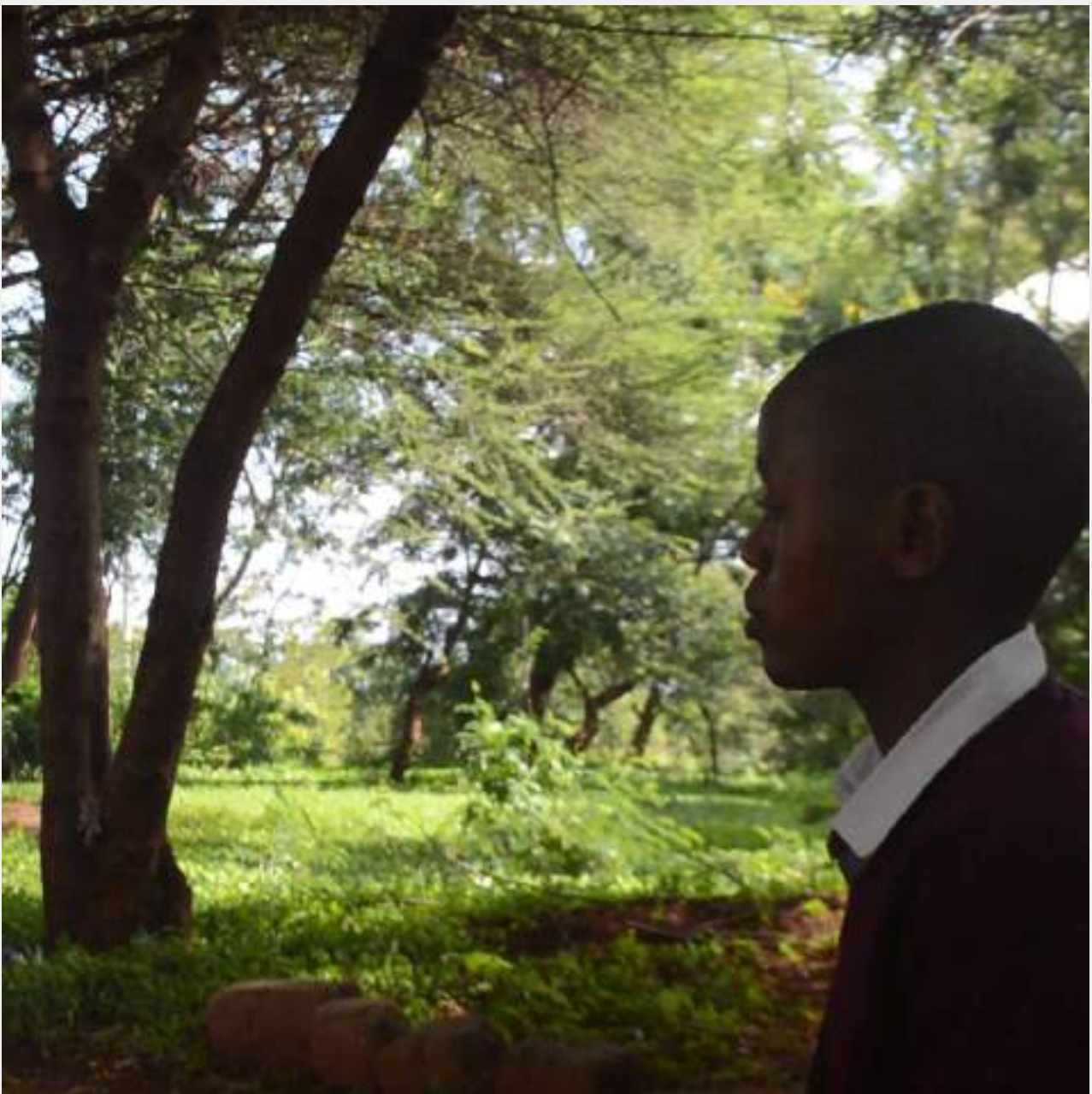
It's Not Just Sanitary Pads. It's Girls' Dignity.

SIWEMA, a 16-year-old student from Lupeta village in Mpwapwa, lives with her elderly father in a low-income household. Her father, who battles alcoholism, has made their home uncertain and fragile. While getting food after school remains her daily struggle, the lack of sanitary pads nearly disrupted her education. She often missed school during her menstrual cycle because she relied on old cloth and feared embarrassment in class.

Each month, she stayed home for several days, falling behind in her studies despite her strong desire to learn.

"Since I first started my menstrual cycle, those days are the days I hate the most in my life..." Siwema said.

To read the whole story, visit our website. <https://shorturl.at/BxQxK>



Siwema 16-year-old student from Lupeta village in Mpwapwa,

YOUTH VOICES TAKE CENTER STAGE IN TECMN FORUM

CHILDREN’S Dignity Forum (CDF), as the Secretariat of the Tanzania Ending Child Marriage Network (TECMN), participated in a Youth Forum held on March 18th, 2026, in Dar es Salaam under the theme “Youth Voices in Ending Child Marriage and Promoting Girls’ Education.” The forum emphasized interactive engagement between youth and stakeholders, giving young people a platform to share their experiences and recommendations.

Speaking during the forum, Advocate Irene Nambuo, TECMN Coordinator, highlighted the importance of collective action in addressing child marriage, saying, “Ending child marriage requires joint efforts from families, communities, government, and young people themselves. When we listen to youth voices and work together, we create stronger and more sustainable solutions that protect girls and support their right to education.”

Angel 23, a youth participant, shared her perspective, saying, “At the forum, I learned that to stop child marriage, education needs to reach everyone, from families to the wider community and the girls themselves. More efforts are also needed to give girls priority in school, so they are less affected by child marriage.”

The forum provided a valuable space for dialogue, ensuring that youth voices directly contribute to policies and programs aimed at ending child marriage and promoting girls’ education across Tanzania.



Angel Danford holding TECMN social media props during the Youth Forum



STAFF CORNER

In this edition, you'll get to know our Field Program Officer, Deogratias Lyimo, beyond meetings and reports. Here's our Q&A

Qn: How long have you been working with CDF
Ans: 2 years.

Qn: What is one thing about your job that people think is easy but is actually very challenging?
Ans: Trying to change people's attitude/behaviour towards what they conceive as violence.

Qn: What is one habit you rely on to stay productive during very busy weeks?
Ans: Respecting my lunch time

Qn: If you were not working in this field, what career do you think you would have chosen?
Ans: Stand-up comedian

Qn: One word your team would use to describe you?
Ans: Brutually honest.

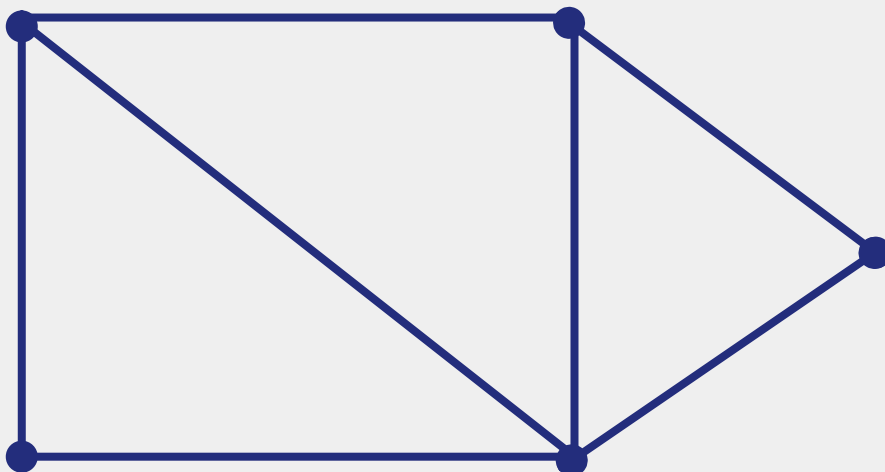
Qn: Favourite team
Ans: Man U

Qn: Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o or Chinua Achebe
Ans: Chinua Achebe



GIGGLES & GAMES

Can you solve the puzzle? Draw all lines without repeating and without lifting your finger! Try this One Line Puzzle and let us know if you found a different path in our next edition.



DID YOU KNOW THAT YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Yes, we have a number of projects currently implemented in Mpwapwa - Dodoma, Tarime - Mara, and Kitunda - Dar es Salaam, and behind every impact story is a little bit of dedication, support, and good intentions. Visit our website www.cdf.or.tz to learn how your support can make a difference.



Thank you for tuning in and being part of our journey. We warmly invite you to follow us on our social media platforms @Children's Dignity Forum, like, comment, and share our content. Your support helps us reach more people and amplify our work for children's rights.

With best wishes,
CDF Team