CDF NEWSLETTER

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WELCOME TO CHILDREN'S DIGNITY FORUM NEWSLETTER

The second quarter of 2026 marked a period of intensive engagement, strategic partnerships, and robust advocacy for the Children's Dignity Forum (CDF).

From grassroot community dialogues to high-level stakeholder convenings in Dodoma and regional platforms in Addis Ababa, CDF continued to champion children's rights, gender equality, and legal reform.

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CHILDREN LEAD ADVOCACY FOR THEIR RIGHTS

Children took centre stage as advocates for their rights during the Day of the African Child (DAC) 2026, commemorated by Children's Dignity Forum (CDF) in collaboration with Lupeta Ward leadership at Lupeta Ward Grounds, Mpwapwa District, Dodoma.

Through creative performances, drawings, and visual materials, children expressed their views on issues affecting them and demonstrated confidence, leadership, and their ability to influence positive change in their communities.

The event brought together more than 500 participants, including children, parents, teachers, community members, and government officials, under the theme *"Mtoto ni Malezi Msingi wa Familia Bora kwa Taifa Imara,"* highlighting the shared responsibility of families and communities to provide children with care, protection, and support.

MEN RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHILDREN'S WELLBEING

At a local coffee spot in Kitunda, Dar es Salaam, men and boys gathered with Children's Dignity Forum (CDF) for a community dialogue on positive masculinity, responsible parenting, and child protection within families and communities.

Participants highlighted the importance of shared responsibility in raising a child and creating protective environments where children can thrive.

"A good father does not leave all child protection and parenting responsibilities to the mother alone.'' Said Abiud George during the discussion.

Participants also exchanged experiences and explored practical actions that men and boys can take to contribute to healthier and more equitable communities.

Through its Men and Boys Engagement initiatives, CDF continues to promote positive masculinity, responsible parenting, and stronger child protection within families and communities



Ezekiel Shamakala (Middle) Bongo FM Presenter, leads the men and boys community dialogue.

VALIDATING THE CSOS' ALTERNATIVE REPORT ON CEDAW

CDF joined civil society organizations and government representatives in validating the CSOs' Alternative Report to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). The workshop reviewed progress in advancing women's and girls' rights, identified persistent challenges, and strengthened recommendations before submission of the report.



Participants of the CSO'sAlternative Report to the CEDAW Committee.

Discussions highlighted the importance of timely reporting, effective implementation of international commitments, and ensuring that perspectives from both Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar are adequately reflected. CDF's participation reaffirmed its commitment to promoting gender equality and protecting the rights of women and girls through evidence-based advocacy.

CALL FOR CLEARER ACCOUNTABILITY TO END CHILD MARRIAGE

CDF conducted a high-level meeting in Dodoma, bringing together key stakeholders and representatives from the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, the Ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs, the Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups; and representatives from the Office of the Attorney General to collectively coordinate a way forward with regards to Law of Marriage Act 1971 amendment and the collective implementation of the school re-entry program.

Opening the meeting, Children's Dignity Forum (CDF) Executive Director, Koshuma Mtengeti, noted that while Tanzania has made significant progress in expanding access to education, structural and legal barriers continue to limit girls' ability to fully benefit from these gains.

"We have made commendable progress in the education sector and invested significantly in ensuring children have access to learning opportunities. However, if we fail to legally protect girls from child marriage, we risk undermining those very investments," He said.

Mtengeti also raised concerns regarding ongoing public opinion collection processes on sensitive child protection matters, arguing that fundamental rights should be safeguarded through legal and policy frameworks aligned with national and international child protection standards, rather than being subjected to shifting public consensus.

Participants echoed concerns about the repeated collection of public views on similar issues, questioning the use and transparency of previously gathered data. They called for clearer accountability, including improved access to findings and evidence from earlier consultations to inform current reform processes.

Stakeholders outlined three core actions: conducting national child consultations, compiling robust research/economic assessments on child dropout costs, and strengthening legal implementation frameworks.



Participats of the high-level meeting in a group photo

LEGAL LOOPHOLES CONTINUE TO LEAVE YOUNG GIRLS VULNERABLE TO CHILD MARRIAGE.

As Secretariat of the Tanzania Ending Child Marriage Network (TECMN), CDF participated in validating the SADC Ending Child Marriage Accountability Dashboard. Adv. Irene Nambuo underscored that legal loopholes in the Law of Marriage Act of 1971 continue to leave girls vulnerable, urging stronger political will to enact reform.

"As long as these legal gaps remain, girls will continue to face a system that does not fully protect them from child marriage." — Adv. Irene Nambuo

While Tanzania has recorded important milestones, including Rebecca Gyumi's landmark court victory and the introduction of the school re-entry policy, progress on legal reform remains stalled. With the new Parliament collecting views on the matter, Adv. Nambuo called for stronger commitment to protecting girls from child marriage.

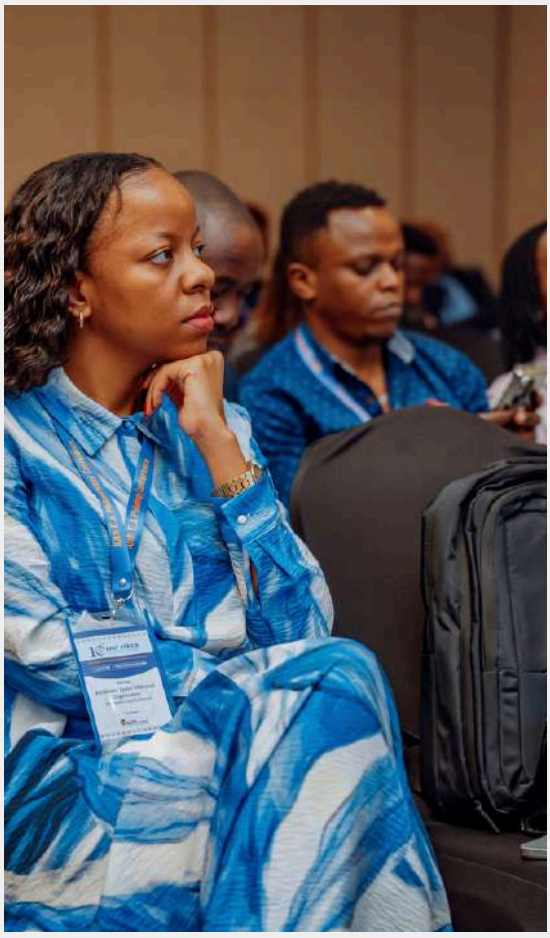
"The question is not whether we know what needs to change. The question is whether there is the political will to act and protect the rights of the girl child." — Adv. Irene Nambuo

CDF continues to call for decisive action to amend the Marriage Act and close the legal gaps that leave children vulnerable to marriage.



TECMN Coordinator, Adv. Irene Nambuo discussing in a Validation of SADC MEARL Ending Child Marriage Dashboard.

AT THE 10TH EAST AFRICA PHILANTHROPY CONFERENCE (EAPC) 2026



Representing CDF, Kindness Makundi taking part in impactful discussions at the conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (June 16–20, 2026).

CDF joined stakeholders from across the AFRICA and beyond in engaging in critical conversations on the future of African philanthropy and development financing.

The conference brought together diverse actors to deliberate on African philanthropy, innovative financing, organizational resilience, trust-based philanthropy, and community-led development. It provided a platform for reflection on how development systems can be strengthened to become more inclusive, locally driven, and sustainable.

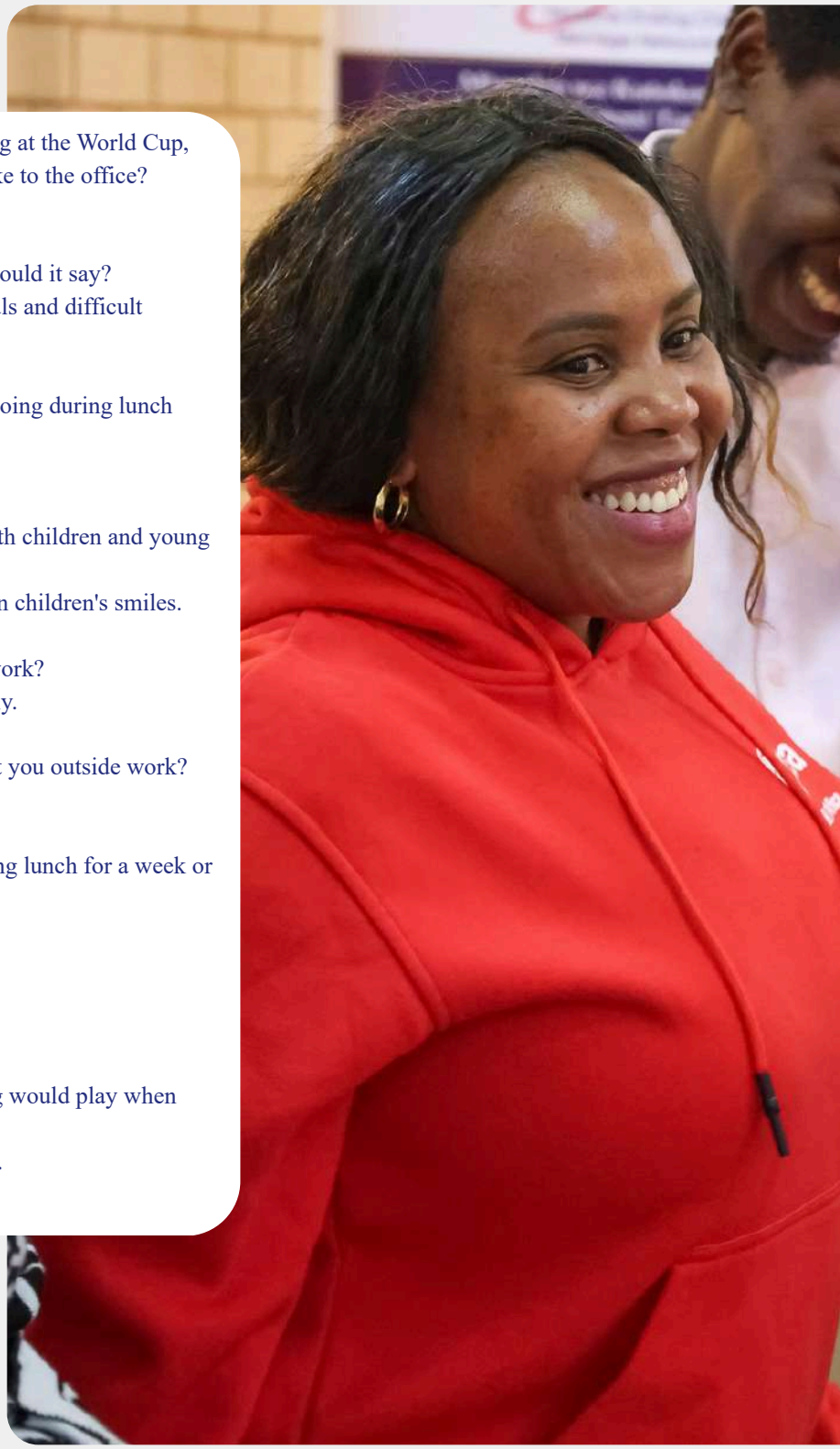
CDF REPRESENTED BY KINDNESS MAKUNDI contributed to discussions that challenged traditional approaches to financing development and delivering impact, with a strong emphasis on rethinking how resources are mobilized and how power can be shifted closer to communities.

The conversations further underscored the importance of strengthening African philanthropy ecosystems and investing in systems built on trust, accountability, and shared ownership. Going forward, the shared responsibility remains clear: to mobilize more resources, strengthen local leadership, and support institutions and communities to drive sustainable change.



STAFF CORNER

In this edition, you'll get to know our Girls Empowerment Officer, Lilian Kimath, beyond meetings and reports. Here's our Q&A



QN: Which national team are you supporting at the World Cup, and If it wins, what promise would you make to the office?
Ans: Brazil, free lunch to all staff.

Qn: If your job had a warning label, what would it say?
Ans: Side effects may include long proposals and difficult conversations.

Qn: What would your colleagues find you doing during lunch break?
Ans: Watching cartoons.

Qn: What gives you hope when working with children and young women?
Ans: The change and transformation I see in children's smiles.

Qn: What's your unofficial superpower at work?
Ans: Saying the uncomfortable truth politely.

Qn: What would surprise people most about you outside work?
Ans: I am a good chef.

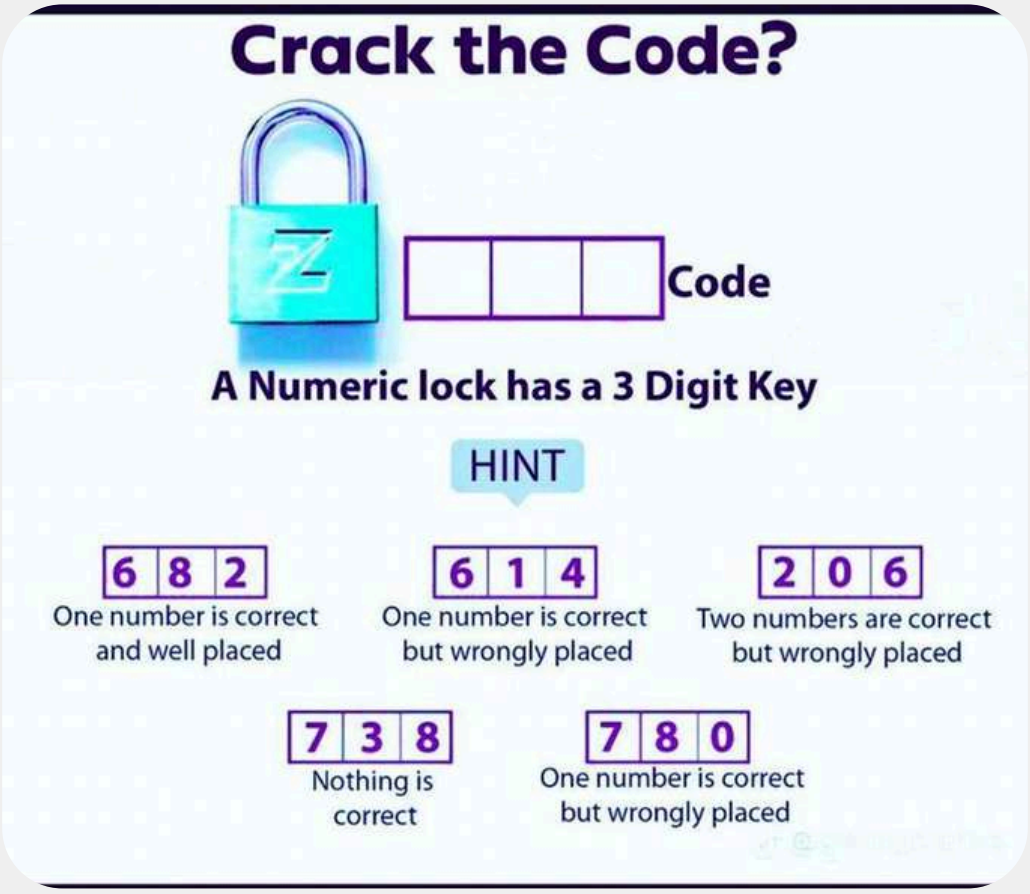
Qn: Which would be harder for you: skipping lunch for a week or staying off your phone for a week?
Ans: Skipping lunch. Easy decision.

Qn: One debate you'll defend forever?
Ans: No marriage under the age of 18.

Qn: If your life had a soundtrack, what song would play when you walk into the office?
Ans: Smooth Criminal by Michael Jackson.

GIGGLES & GAMES

Can you get the code?



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