

MHOLA ANNUAL REPORT – 2024/2025



Approved by:
Saulo P. Malauri – Executive Director
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WITH FUNDING FROM
AUSTRIAN
DEVELOPMENT
COOPERATION



ANITA FOUNDATION

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Contents	Page Number
Abbreviation.....	3
Acknowledgements.....	4
Executive Summary.....	5
MHOLA background on serving the community.....	6
Plans, Targets and Implementation.....	7
General description of performance of goal.....	7-20
Budget and Financial Management.....	20
Success Stories	20
Lesson learned and Challenge.....	21
Future Plans.....	22
Recommendations and Conclusion.....	22

Annexures:

1. MHOLA profile
2. MHOLA Legal Aid and legal education statistics for 2025
3. MHOLA Budget & Annual work plan 2025/2026
4. List of photos and links

ABBREVIATIONS

BWF	Better Way Foundation
CSG	Community social groups
MoCLA	Ministry of Constitution and Legal Affairs
ECD	Early Child development
GoT	Government of Tanzania
SGBV	Sexual and Gender Based Violence
h3000	horizont 3000
IEC	Information Education and Communication Material
IGA	Income Generating Activities
Kfb	Katholische Frauen Bewegung (Catholic Women Movement of Austria).
DKA	Dreikonigsaktion (Hilfswerk der Katholischen Jungschar)
SP	Strategic Plan
MDCC	MHOLA Day Care Centre
MHOLA	Mamas' Hope Organization for Legal Assistance
TANLAP	Tanzania Network for legal Aid Providers
THF	Threshold Foundation (Schwelle Foundation)
VICOBA	Village Community Bank
VSLA	Village Savings and Loan Association
PHC	Primary Health Care
PAYE	Pay As You Earn (Tax)
WCF	Workers' Composition fund (compulsory contribution fund)
VEO	Village Executive Officer
WEO	Ward Executive Officer
TRA	Tanzania Revenue Authority

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First and foremost, we lift our thanks giving to Almighty God for peace and harmony within Kagera region and countrywide which set a friendly working environment to encourage our development partners to continue supporting our interventions. We also commend undivided timely support from government officials offered to all MHOLA staff at different levels within the government of the United Republic of Tanzania, from village to the National level.

We could not have achieved the counting success stories below without generosity of our esteemed friends and strategic partners to include Threshold Foundation (Schwelle), Austria Development Cooperation, kfb, DKA, and horizont3000 (Austria), Anita Foundation and Verein Zur (Germany) and Media society for accepting our cooperation in serving the needy.

Our efforts would have been meaningless if legal aid clients, daycare children and projects targeted groups would not have shown interest to demand and utilize our services during the reporting period. On the other hand, we felt humbled and secured working in cooperation and support of other likeminded organizations and government institutions. It was a platform for learning, sharing and evaluating our progress through their valuable recommendations and professional advice.

We are committed to continue improving the quality of our services based on their recommendation and experience gained through serving them. We promise our availability in joining effort to protect the vulnerable people within a community. Please continue guiding us for sustainability of our services.

MHOLA also acknowledge dedicated cooperation between staff and members to include Organization and Board members, Paralegals and Interns for unlimited time and professionalism to accomplish the targets. MHOLA promises to continue setting conducive environment for smooth operation and sustainability. As we begin a new year of implementation all team members are challenged to always act fairly and have mercy to all clients/customers (the needy) they meet in daily official routine.

End of financial year 2025 marks the new beginning of 2026, which rans from 1st October, 2025 to September, 2026. Let's take the challenges observed in 2025 to become an opportunity and move forward. Kindly feel free to be part of this journey as you think you can support our budget and work plan on serving the needy and promoting MHOLA services sustainability. Always feel welcomed to be part of achieving our dreams.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This reports gives update of MHOLA implementation from October 2024 to September, 2025. All activities implemented aimed at achieving our organization main goals which is **“To improve the wellbeing of women and children in Kagera region”**.

With anticipated planned budget, the following key activities were planned: engage on IGA to increase MHOLA internal sources of fund, strengthen digitalization legal aid system to increase access to legal aid services, finalization of construction of physio-therapy building and purchase of its equipment, Empower and encourage 100 women to engage on leadership position, support 200 women with modern agriculture skills and materials and lastly reach direct 3600 individuals with legal disputes, 60 children and 62,000 individuals through legal education on women and children rights and gender equality.

By September 2025 only Tshs. 315,721,859.39 Out of Tshs. 892,181,100/- budgeted for annual implementation of our interventions. This is 35.4% of the targeted budget. With such fund we managed to partially strengthen and sustained developed digitalization legal aid system, progressing in construction physiotherapy building by setting electivity, skimming walls and water systems, trained 87 women leaders from different institutions, supported 220 women from 20 community social groups with agriculture skills and provision of seeds (maize & beans), fertilizers/manual and pesticides. On the other hand, we managed to reach 55,420 individuals (53,702 Indirect target) and 1,718 Direct target) for legal aid assistance while 52 kids enjoyed the daycare services during the reporting period. The reporting period witnessed the serious move of formation of Legal Aid Policy where MHOLA were invited by MoCLA and contribute its inputs in formation of the policy.

Based on findings from periodic monitoring visit and evaluation exercise conducted during reporting period women are observed economically growing and able to defend their legal rights once violated. Also they work in team to support their fellow women both economically and during process of access to justice. On the other hand, some men are slightly changing their negative attitude toward women and child rights protection, hence promoting healthy society which free from domestic violence and discrimination.

In 2025/2026 financial year, MHOLA will continue building on what has been left un-attend in 2025 due to financial constraints. Also strategize to invest on digitalization platform for more people to access, especially those in most remote and hard to reach areas. Provision of physiotherapy services for children with physical disabilities which has been a request of most vulnerable parents. Support of women leaders to engage on leadership position and strengthen women farmers. With the available building/digital structures, committed staff, Board members and partners, we hope the sum of **Tshs. 761,009,716** which is equivalent to USD 310,661.21 or Euro 26217.14 if raised will fulfil 2026 plans and smoothly sustain MHOLA services.

MAMAS' HOPE ORGANIZATION FOR LEGAL ASSISTANCE (MHOLA)

We continue to appealing to the partner/donors and other like-minded organizations to support our interventions to the people we are entrusted to serve.

MHOLA BACKGROUND ON SERVING THE COMMUNITY

MHOLA is among the prominent organizations registered in Tanzania mainland since 2006 to provide community service in terms of Legal Aid services, psychosocial support to most vulnerable children and address extreme poverty challenges facing very poor families especially being headed by Women. MHOLA's physical address is based in Muleba Districts, with branch offices in Bukoba Minicipal, Karagwe and Ngara Districts within Kagera region. Also MHOLA can be reached through toll free number 0800-71-2350.

Kagera region like any part of Tanzania and Africa in general faces Gender Based Violence (GBV) that reinforced gender inequality. Several studies conducted in Kagera since 2006, including those conducted by MHOLA recently at Muleba District (2023) indicates that GBV mainly affect women and girls due to societal norms and harmful practices that discriminate them. Denial of right to own or enjoy access to matrimonial properties and other economic resources or lack of right to participate on decision making and political arena is among the common incidents happening in Kagera region where MHOLA operates. The practice decreases woman's powers and confidence in the community economically, politically and socially. The situation become worse for women and children in rural communities whereby they have limited access to information and institutions to protect their rights. This situation also makes them less potential and portrays them as a source of labour. For widows and orphans the experience become more difficulty since there are the most vulnerable in the society due to their reduced social protection based on traditional harmful practices.

The government of Tanzania has domesticated numerous regional and international instruments which aims at protecting women and child rights, promote gender equality and women empowerment, such as convection on the elimination of all form against women (CEDAW), Convention of the right of children, 2030 sustainable development goals and Africa we want 2063 to mention just few. However, incidences of gender and sexual violence to women are still observed, mainly in rural and hard to reach area. According to DHS the decrease of physical violence declines sharply if only an increase of education to community members about GBV will be increased. Thus a reason MHOLA strive to raise awareness for gender equality, provision of legal aid services, support women and children in terms of education and activities to increase household income in order to make them stronger economically, hence reducing their vulnerability and promote equality.

MHOLA's mission targets at combating of all forms of GBV mainly manifesting in the hard-to-reach arears through raising awareness on preventive measures for GBV and promotion of women and child rights. This is the continues exercise of MHOLA since 2006 when it was established until the achievement of healthy society which is free from extreme poverty, gender violence and discrimination.

2.0 PLANS AND TARGETS SET IN 2024/2025

Within the year 2024/2025 MHOLA has remain with major one goal and four Objectives to achieve, which are: -

Goals: -

1. Improving the wellbeing of women and children in Kagera region

Objectives: -

1. Enhancement of women and children understanding of their basic fundamental rights.
2. Increased access to justices through provision of legal aid services including legal education
3. Increased promotion of Early Child Development (ECD) by increasing household income to the remote areas especially vulnerable families
4. Building Institutional Capacity, Sustainability and Publicity of MHOLA activities

In each MHOLA financial year we design key activities and sub- activities depending on developed goals and objectives but also projection of funds availability. Therefore, below is the list of planned activities and actual implementation and achievement.

Objective 1: Enhancement of women and children to understand their basic fundamental rights

1.0 Planned and implemented activities in 2025 to achieve the objectives

1.1 Conduct awareness raising to 62,500 (60% being women) community members on women Land rights, child rights and need for formation of Legal Aid Policy in Tanzania and promotion of ECD.

1.1.1 Conducted MHOLA MIA MIA football league, which took place between April-July 2025. This league started 2019 and it has been implemented yearly since then. Within reporting period through the process of selecting contesting teams to join the league MHOLA legal Officers and Paralegals used the opportunity to raise awareness on women land rights, the role of Ward Land Tribunal and a step to take if the rights of individuals, including women is violated. Along with that we introduced the role of Paralegals and MHOLA in the society. Additionally, to that community members were introduced to incidents of Gender based violence happening in the community and at family level and how they affect Women and girl's development. The activity was implemented into 40 Wards of Muleba District where MHOLA MIA MIA Cup technical team reached for selection of the team players. At the end it is approximately that 49,000 (25,970M, 23,030F) were reached. Majority of people were attracted by announcement made through high volume Music of Public address system which passed across the villages among other issues announcing the football match to be played at Ward Level on a specific date, on the due date people gathered from different places depending with the popularity of the competing football teams and desire to witness the selection process. The key message

during the tournament was **advocating for children with physical disabilities that they also have a right to education, protection and play with other children**. In the process MHOLA legal aid team used advantage of the gathering to air the above message. Some individuals approached the legal aid desk for legal assistance as well.

1.1.2 Conducted 8 outreach sessions on school programme to reach primary and secondary students. About 1,151 (600M, 551F) students aged 9 to 16 years from 5 Primary schools (3 Primary schools) were reached and educated on gender equality and GBV practices affecting child growth at family level. Where the issue of unattended abuses of children with special needs i.e. physical disabilities were reported in many sessions conducted.

1.1.3 Participation on joint work with government and other NGOs to celebrate International and National events such as 16 days of activism, Law day in Tanzania, International Women day, African child day and The Elderly International day. Also attended different invitations at Village and Community social groups gathering. Out of all that the total of 3,386 (1,930M, 1,456F) were reached. On top of that the total sum of 750 Leaflet were distributed to community (250 Child rights, 370 Women Land rights and procedure to resolve land disputes and 130 Women leader's rights).

1.2 Conduct 4 coordination meeting and 2 Policy dialogue with legal aid providers (Individual organization, Social welfare Officer, Police gender desk officers, paralegals) to strengthen legal aid services and influence formation of Legal Aid Policy

1.2.1 Three sessions of coordination meeting were conducted to 43. (27M, 16F) members. Participants included paralegals, MHOLA Staff, Other legal Aid providers (WLAC and TLS), District Solicitor and Assistant registrar of Legal Aid at District level and Police Gender Desk. This meeting gave forum of legal aid providers and Administrators of Legal Aid providers at District level to discuss and resolve on the issues of provision of legal aid. Agenda of the meeting were first sharing of implementation feedback of the previous meeting resolutions, before rising new issues. Majority of the resolutions were reported acted upon by participants, save for key issues which required the central government attention. Also members used this forum to identify gaps which needed further attention for policy makers and implementers, like budgeting for legal aid providers, parliament or Minister action to amend the law or pass the Policies.

1.2.2 Three sessions of Policy dialogue were conducted to 35 (22M, 13F) participants to include Assistant Registrar of Legal Aid at Region and District level, Region Lawyer from Region Commissioners' Office and District Solicitor, Region / District Crime Officer, Representative of Tanganyika Law Society at Regional level, Representative of Legal Aid Providers and MHOLA staff. The purposed was to identify the available gaps which need to be considered during formation of Legal Aid Policy; salient features of the Tanzania Legal Aid Act and its accompanying rules. mentioned laws and rules based on the actual practice and challenges faced in the process to offer legal aid; to priorities observed challenges or weakness among them being i.e. procedures of registration of NGOs as

legal aid providers and individual Paralegals, Legal Aid providers being required to pay registration fee at every three years while they offer services free of charge and are not receiving any incentive from the government, Confusion on the treatment of Legal Aid providers and new recruited government officer named as (Mama Samia Legal Aid Campaign lawyers). The stated position was a bit confusing between the role of District Solicitor and Paralegals/ Legal Aid providers under the law, since they seem to have been doing the same activity, but unfortunate they are not lawyers by professional, as the result they do referrals to other Legal Aid Providers who as well are not funded by the government.

A technical group selected from the above participants gathered and compile the above recommendation and present their recommendations, which was positively received by MoCLA and a consultants assigned a duty to collect public opinion/views on a new policy and present them to the Legal Aid Board and later to the government.

1.3 Design and Production of 1000pcs of GBV Leaflets:

The total sum of 1000pcs of GBV leaflets was designed and produced and distributed along with 750 Leaflet on (250Child rights, 370Women Land rights and procedure to resolve land disputes and 130 Women participation on leadership position). Which contributed much in raising awareness to individual who visited and reported various incidents of violence to our paralegal and other direct to our legal Officers for help.

1.4 Conduct capacity building training to 100 Women Leaders representatives.

About 87 Women leader were reached (2Paralegals and 25 Members of Ward Tribunal, 30 Women farmers and 30 Women leaders from (Political Parties, Community bodies and Religious Institutions). The activity was purposely designed to strengthen the deep understanding of Women position on Tanzania leadership hierarchy. The attended women were inspired to uphold justice and standing up and promote Women rights as well as gender equality. Additionally, to that they were all inspired to contest for upcoming National election. Some key guidelines for Leadership skills, possible challenges and how to overcome them was the key agenda. Women participated were given a platform to share their own experience and challenges encountered in their leadership position. Thereafter collaboration of facilitator presentation and members experience made the event more meaningful. Participants encouraged each other and disclosed their intentions to contest for different positions in their respective field of work.

It was very interesting that majority of participants shown interest to participate on the upcoming Nation election, also others indicated desire to vie for higher position to allow young women to hold grassroots position. Women promised to support fellow women and warned themselves not to expose themselves on unnecessary scandals likely to harm their reputations and respect from the community. Within a reporting period a random follow up survey on the status of women leadership position after the National local government election was conducted, and the results indicated that women hold 40% at village Council, only 3% at village highest position (Village Chairperson) and at Hamlet position is 20%. Experience testimony from community members indicates that yet with this number there is noticeable activeness of women on leadership position, however not

strongly competent with men. Alternatively, on other community institutions like religious, private bodies and social groups women are holding higher position by 65%.

Description of achievement of Objective 1: The target was to reach 62,500 individuals among them 60% being women. The aim to reach the individuals was to enhance the understanding of the target group to understand the basic fundamental rights for women and children. At the end the total sum of 53,702 (28,549M, 25,153F) individuals were reached. This is 86% achievement of the total target, however being 47% achievement of the women targeted, which means women targeted were not reached as planned. Reviewing the topics covered during the sessions they all targeted to address gender equality which promotes women and children's rights in one way. Based on the number it is obvious men enjoyed the services than women and children, but again this is another achievement because at community and family level men are the causative of women and girl's rights violation hence raising their understanding means promoting women and child fundamental rights. Additionally, based on the interaction performed between MHOLA, women and children their understanding on their basic fundamental rights is growing as well, especially those based in town centres, the challenge remain in hard to reach areas, where education programmes are limited and discriminatory cultural practices are still prominent. On the children it was observed that children have limited knowledge to identify acts of gender based violations since it has become a normal practice at family and even schools where they spend more time. More of their knowledge is revealed on SGBV than other forms of GBV. And majority are able to narrate steps to follow after violation has happened and not how to prevent violation to happen to them. Unfortunate school programs are so strict to get time for more intervention and also it was observed that when opportunity arise children aged between 5 years to 9 are excluded in this programs.

Objective 2: Increased access to justices through provision of legal aid services including legal education

2.0 Activities planned and implemented in 2025 to reach the objective (target being to reach 3,340 individual clients (60% being women))

2.1 Provision of legal advice and Counseling

Throughout the year 2025 MHOLA legal aid clinics at all MHOLA offices were open and legal officers/Advocate available to serve the needy. Also in the month of January to March, 2025 about 65 clients were served through MHOLA toll free number and thereafter the database system collapsed throughout the year despite efforts to fix it. Generally, the total sum of 584 (311M, 273F) individual clients were advised and counselled on different legal related issues. *(Attached herewith is the statistics extracted from MHOLA database from October 2024- September, 2025 for more elaboration)*

2.2 Conducted Counseling and Mediation

Additionally, to the above the total sum of 390 (195M, 195F) enjoyed the counseling and mediation services, whereby 85% of all people served were able to finalize their cases

out of Court and others guided on the proper procedures to follow to claim their rights. It was also noted that some clients reported cases which in actual sense they had no rights over the subject matter, hence they were as well advised to drop them after being oriented on the law guidance. MHOLA staff and paralegals enjoyed this services because in most accession both side went home happily.

2.3 Provision of legal Assistance

The total sum of 641(308M, 333F) individuals exhausted different services under this service category, this include drafting of legal documents to be presented in Court or other official government institutions, referral to other institutions, case follow-ups especially those residing far from Court/Tribunals and they needed to make a follow-up, therefore MHOLA staff did that on their behalf and clients only attended the Court when his/her physical appearance was required. Also some of the clients enjoyed waive of Court fee and others were supported with printing/ photocopying costs or transport costs both to clients or their Advocates or Legal officers/paralegals while attending their cases and also supported with payment of summons advertisement in the newspapers.

2.4 Provision of Legal representation in Court

Out of all served Clients and proceeded with the case in Court/ Tribunals few enjoyed direct Court representation. In consideration of the available two Advocates and funds limitation within a reporting period, the total of 46 (19M, 27F) were supported. The services include assignment of Advocates and Court Appearance.

2.5 Conducted 16 session of outreach

Within a reporting period also Advocate, Legal Officers and Paralegals conducted 16 session of outreach sessions, 12 were direct organized by MHOLA within a project area and 4 sessions were organized by other stakeholders hence MHOLA invited to undertake a joint outreach. These stakeholders were District Counsels during 16 days of activism, Judiciary during day week and government through Mama Samia Legal Aid Campaign. Target audience was public at large, however for sessions organized by MHOLA the target was people in hard to reach areas. Services offered includes Advice, counseling, drafting of legal documents, referral to other institutions and later Court representation.

2.6 Prepare, design, produce and distribute leaflets on MHOLA services and conducted 5 Radio Programme

Aired 5 Radio programme on different legal aspects to include introduction of the Legal Aid Act, No:1/2017 in relation to MHOLA and other Legal Aid Providers, Law of Marriage and married couples on property ownership, Gender based Violence in relation to Women and child rights. Radio stations involved were Radio Rumuli and Kasibante FM. Apart from what has been explained above regarding this activity, MHOLA produced and distributed 1500pcs leaflets introducing MHOLA services to the public. The content of the same detailed nature of services offered, target group, office location and time when office are open. Through this activity people in need of the services reached MHOLA after reading the contents of the said leaflets.

Additionally, to that five Radio programme was aired through Radio Rumuli and Fadeco Radio FM, 4 Sessions were paid by Judiciary and MHOLA officers were invited to participate on public awareness and 1 was organized and paid by MHOLA to publicize MHOLA services.

2.7 Prepare and review designed and produced leaflets

In order to maintain the consistence and share relevant knowledge to the public MHOLA legal department team organized sessions to discuss and produce message to be share to the public through leaflets designed, produced and distributed to the public. The message was in consistence with theme of awareness in the community within a reporting period. The team participated on selecting and drafting the message later the team was also involved on reviewing the designed version before it could be produced. The message was through leaflets and message was on GBV and gender equality, Women Land rights, Child rights and Women participation on Leadership position.

Description of achievement of the Above objective:

The ultimate target was to reach at least 3,340 (60% being women) individuals, but the actual performance reached 1,661 (833M, 828F) individuals. This is 50% achievement of both targets. Based on statistics land related disputes (42%) remained at the pick of majority of cases reported followed by matrimonial disputes (19%). We also observed increase of number of Civil cases and Child Maintenance compared with the previous reporting period. Majority of cases also originated from Muleba Districts by 59% followed by Bukoba Municipal (23%). Apart from statistics, the general intended results under this objective was to provide access to justice to members of the community, especially women. At the end of the reporting period out of cases received 893 (411M, 482F) cases were finalized which is 54% and 544 (301M, 243F) are still pending (33%), 201 (108M, 93F) cases has been referred to other institutions (12%), however 23 (14M, 10F) which is 1.4% ended without solution. This is to say out of client received and served only 1,638 were satisfied with the service offered and since 24 individuals did not reach consensus were not satisfied with the services. Also about 66% were finalized, this is a positive improvement compared with previous year (2024) whereby only 314 were resolved. This success was contributed with internal strategies (mediation and reconciliation) and external efforts (Judiciary and District land and Housing Tribunal clean up sessions of long lasting cases). The area observed to have delayed the successes was functional failure of MHOLA call center due to Internet and network connection, as such clients were forced again to visit the office physically.

Objective 3: Increased promotion of Early Child Development (ECD) by increasing household income to the remote areas especially vulnerable families

Activities planned and implemented in 2025 to achieve the objective

3.1 Provision of ECD services to 60 children (30% with special needs).

The total number of 57 children (31M, 26F) were registered and enjoyed the serves at our MHOLA daycare centre. These were Children aged 3-5 mostly from poor and middle income families. Service offered included transports from home to centre and return, classroom studies (public speaking, reading, counting and writing) whereby language used were Kiswahili and English, since some of children reported only speaking Kihaya language (mother tongue). The course offered considered age and individual historical background.

Also while at the compound they were offered breakfast and lunch meals, Physical and playing exercise and bed resting. The service offered was between 7:30am to 4.00pm to allow their parents/guardian engage on other family chaos, employment or economic activities. At the end of reporting period sum of 40 students graduated in order to join other pre-primary school, therefore we closed the reporting period with a total of 17 children attending at our compound, until we open window for new registration in January, 2026. On the other hand, out of 57 children enjoyed services only two had physical disability, this is only 11% of the total target. However, these two children were out of 60 children screened from the surrounding area of MHOLA compound but we could not enroll them due to lack of friendly facilities and professional staff to take care of them.

3.2 Support 200 Women from CSGs to engage on modern agriculture activities for more productivity

The total sum of 220 women were supported from 10 community social groups within Muleba Districts. With limited financial resources MHOLA managed to support them with 265kilograms of maize seeds, 270Kilograms with beans seeds, 5packs of fertilizers, manure and pesticides to prepare and plant their farms. On top of that, MHOLA staff in collaboration with Muleba District Agriculture Officer conducted two monitoring field visit of these women farms to evaluate and offer more guidance and technical advice. These women work in team and proceeds earned from the farm are equally distributed for their family consumption and another portion is sold to increase base of the group capital. Within a reporting period a survey was conducted to review the progress on monthly income. The total of 77 (21F, 56M) Respondents were interviewed and response was that: Between Tshs. 10,000 to 30,000 (22M, 17F), Between Tshs. 30,000- 50,000 (16M, 4F), and from Tshs. 50,000 onwards (18M). The results indicate that women are still earning lower income compare to Men, however there is noticeable changes compared with the results obtained in 2023 interview when majority of women reported that their income was between Tshs. 10,000 and 20,000 per month. This is to say there is increase of about 50%. Another positive progress reported was about how income support them which include capacity to address their family basic needs, school fees for their children and also good

relationship with partner at family level and community at large *(For more elaboration kindly see the attached chart on monthly income).*

3.3 Support of other community daycare Centre and Children with special need to promote EDC

The reporting period witnessed little interventions to other ECD Centre due to limited resources including staff and funding. However, MHOLA constructed ECD Centre at Karagwe Prison continue serving 35 children whereby out of the registered 15 belong to the convicted women at Kayanga prison, the rest are from the nearby families. On the other hand, more than 300 children were enrolled and enjoyed their right of education and meals at Kikomakoma na Rusese ECD centres. Spontaneous monitoring of children with special needs around the fishing community was on going. The monitoring and support visit managed to identify 68 children with physical disabilities whose parents/caregivers are eagerly waiting the accomplishment of the rehabilitation facility construction and have access to physiotherapy services and other opportunities like education and treatment for their children.

3.4 Construction of rehabilitation Centre and purchase of Physiotherapy machines and equipment to include furniture

Following the financial support from Anita Foundation the construction activities continued up to 86% of the total work. The work included the purchase of sanitary accommodation equipment's i.e. toilets, urinal sink, hand wash basin. Other include plumbing, installation of electricity system. Now the next step is on finishing stage of the building to include fitting tiles, Ceiling board, fitting window glass, doors and purchase of physiotherapy equipment's and furniture. The fulfilment of this activity is very much waited in order to satisfy the long waited hope of many parents and guardians of children with different types of disabilities whose future hope has been shuttered due to lack of supporting facilities and services to address their challenges. The application of funds to accomplish the task to different partners, friends and other institution is ongoing.

3.4 Provision of Physiotherapy services to MVC

The activity was not implemented due to the fact the infrastructure (rehabilitation facility) to accommodate the children with physical disability is not ready. The construction is ongoing.

3.5 Conduct four parent/guardian session meeting for evaluation and service delivery assessment

Five meeting sessions with parents and guardians were conducted on quarterly basis. During the meeting session implementation report was submitted and discussed and feedback or recommendations and resolution properly documented. Received recommendation proposal for improvement was also taken into consideration during planning, budgeting and implementation. Among the major request presented by parents was on reduction of schools fees rate whereby the management in collaboration with PHC team members addressed resolved to reduce the rate from Tshs. 750,000/- to

Tshs. 600,000/- as from October, 2025. These meeting sessions assisted on improving MHOLA service delivery process and connection between MHOLA and parents.

3.6 Conduct awareness creation of ECD and celebration of International Child events

MHOLA participated in celebration of African Child day in collaboration with Child rights Defenders and the Muleba District Council authority. We participated into intervention organized within Bukoba and Muleba District by demonstrating the services we offer at our MHOLA daycare centre and future plans for children with disabilities, also promoting ECD to community members by raising their understanding that ECD starts at family level. Additionally, to that leaflets with message of promoting and introducing child rights and ECD aspect were distributed. The key message during the events was **advocating for children with physical disabilities that they also have a right to education, protection and play with other children.**

Description of achievement of the objective:

MHOLA key target under this objective is promotion of ECD specifically addressing challenges facing children with physical disabilities and economic challenges from very poor families. Based on the report above it is obvious we failed to achieve the target of supporting the children with special needs due to lack of facilities and professional staff as mentioned above. On the other hand, the evaluation of the nature of the families where 57 enrolled children indicate that they originate from poor or mid-income families, as such being difficult for them to raise the school fees, however yet MHOLA cannot manage offering services free of charge due to limited funds, therefore limiting access to education to children from poor families. Regarding support of women empowerment, the target was achieved, this means that about 220 families were supported economically to have food for their families and also expansion of their group capital which it is believed will continue to enhance their capacity economically. Support of women groups is a continues activity from 2023, whereby the feedback from women supported appraise MHOLA support. All in all, periodic monitoring visit will be conducted to keep these women moving for their sustainability. Also more effort is required to fundraise for completion of Physio-therapy building to allow provision of Physio-therapy services for the best interest of children with disabilities.

Objective 4: Building Institutional Capacity, Sustainability and Publicity of MHOLA activities

Activities planned and implemented in 2025 to achieve the objective

4.1 Fundraising Tshs. 892,181,100(Equivalent to 405,838.81 USD or 356,872.44Euro) to support organization budget in 2024/2025

The total sum of **Tshs. 892,181,100/-** was required to accomplish all planned activities for the financial year. MHOLA engaged on different IGA activities such as agriculture and poultry farming, provided conference and hostel services, hire vehicle,

Membership fee, daycare contribution fees, proposal writing and submission, joint work with other likeminded organizations, minimize expenses and deduction of some allowances to staff/ volunteers. At the end of reporting period the total sum of **Tshs. 315,721,859.39** was secured. This is 35.4% of the planned budget. Underscore of the target negatively affected the total plan and therefore limited the achievement. On the other hand, we received un expected disallowable costs which interfered our budget plan from individual projects. (Financial report 2024/2025 is attached herewith for more elaboration of the income and expenditure.

4.2 Engage on Agriculture and other IGA activities to increase the fundraising base to support the running costs for Daycare centre.

During the reporting period, MHOLA engaged on different IGA activities like agricultural activities of Banana plantation, Coffee, horticulture and poultry farming. Also we engaged on hiring conference and hostel facilities. **The sum of Tshs. 40,553,950/-** was raised during the period in question. All the income secured was used to support the smooth running of the Daycare services, hence promoting ECD. This includes provision of food for children, payment of incentive for caretakers, transport costs and other statutory bills originating from running of the daycare centre. See the attached financial report for more details. **Despite all the efforts of MHOLA and parents' contribution of school fees yet the generated income was not able to cover all costs incurred, hence running on debts with staff and government.**

4.3 Prepare and submit Annual implementation report (2023/2024) to the government, organization members, development partners and public at large

Preparation and submission of annual implementation report is among the statutory obligation of MHOLA to her members, public at large, development partners and the Government. Between October- December, 2024 the management managed to compile the implementation report and shared the same to the respective bodies through special meetings, submission of the report itself and through MHOLA website. MHOLA received positive feedback from consumers of the said reports. New government officials visited our organization offices and also referred clients. On the other hand, MHOLA received words of encouragement, endorsement and recommendations was offered by those who held and read the report.

4.4 Conduct Audit of MHOLA Finances from 2022 to 2024

A consolidated Audit of finances from 2022 was among the key resolution deliberated by MHOLA Board meeting held in December 2024, therefore it was among the priority issues to be accomplished despite scarcity of funds. Please note that previously was that only individual projects finance was audited and not consolidated auditing accounts since 2022. Through normal routine monitoring visit of TRA, the management was advised to undertake the same. Therefore, within 2025

financial year it was resolved that all financial reports should be Audited. The same was conducted and its report submitted to the relevant organization and government institutions. Its implementation released MHOLA from bad image to both Organization and government institutions, also stopped the increase debt originating from non-filing of annual returns with TRA. The exercise also enabled MHOLA to be acquitted with new developed procedures and guidance from Audit firm which improved the capacity of the management and financial department on financial Management issues.

4.5 Undertake evaluation and development of SP (2019/2024) and develop new SP (2025/2030), develop MHOLA policies (Gender and child safeguarding policies and Approval of Financial Policies and Manual

The evaluation of SP (2019/2024) and development of SP (2025/2030) was not achieved due to lack of fund to support the same. Development of policies (Gender and child safeguarding policies) went half way. Despite the challenge emerged, MHOLA received a breakthrough of fund support from h3000 to support review of her financial policies and procurement manual. Currently MHOLA has a revised financial policy and procurement manual which was developed and approved in 2024 and it is currently in use. Its applicability is more smooth since its formation involved number of staff currently serving the organization, hence they are implementing what actually they proposed to the consultant or had enough time to discuss before its pass.

4.6 Payment of organization Bills, renewal of organization licenses/ certificate fees, statutory contributions, staff/ Volunteer salaries/incentives and security services

Despite scarcity of funds the management managed to clear debts by 75% of all bills within the financial year. Up to the end of financial year MHOLA had no any pending bill with staff, volunteers and service providers. Also MHOLA managed to renew expired certificate/ licenses in order to operate legally. On the other hand, MHOLA managed to clear partly debts with government institutions regarding statutory contributions. There also unexpected bills raised by the government resulting from previous years (2019- 2024) penalties as the results it frustrated the whole plan and developed new bills which could not be covered by the raised amount. Through a joint discussion with the respective government institutions some of the debts were waived and the remaining one given extension of time up to March 2026 to clear them. We appreciate positive response and guidance received from all officers of these government department for their understanding and willingness to assist us in this difficulty moment.

4.7 Conduct 11 organization statutory meetings: 1 AGM, 4Board members, 2 staff Meeting, 4 Management meeting

9 Statutory meeting session to include 1AGM Meeting, 1Board Meeting, 3 Staff meeting and 5 Management Meeting was conducted within a reporting period. The Board meetings session were very few due to various reasons including limited

schedule of members and financial resources. The session conducted apart from fulfilling the statutory obligation also helped to assess the organization progress toward the annual plans and adjustment of the implementation approach based on the available resources and priority need. The above meetings facilitated among other issue the updating and adoption of same new policies i.e. financial and Procurement manual, gender policy and Child Safeguarding Policy

4.8 Repair and maintenance of office building and equipment as well as office rent payment

Despite financial challenges, yet within a reporting period the management was forced to authorize request for repair and maintenance to make the facilities/equipment habitable and safe for staff and visitors. Some key renovations undertaken includes replacement of sewage system, water sink, window and doors, electricity and solar system. On the other hand, vehicles, Motor Cycles, Computers and Photocopy machines repair and services. Also purchase of mobile phones and Computer accessories and storage equipment as well as Anti- virus for data collection and storage. Lastly was the payment of rent fee for MHOLA branch offices of Ngara and Karagwe. All these facilitated smooth implementation of the organization interventions.

4.9 Recruitment and Renew of MHOLA staff and Volunteers working contracts to support implementation of Planned activities: -

At the beginning of his financial year the total number of 23 staff (11M, 12F) and (8 Full time staff, 10 Volunteers, and 5 Intern) were on board, however from January 2025 to September, 2025 only 17 (7M, 9F) served the organization, whereby 7 were Full time staff, 5 Volunteers and 4 Interns. The distribution under department: Admin & Finance (3), Legal (7) and PHC (6), also distribution was that at Head office (9), Bukoba Office (6), Karagwe (1) and Ngara (1), however implementation of activities was under teamwork. General observation indicates staff were overburden throughout the year. Additionally, to that MHOLA worked in collaboration with 23 paralegals from Kagera region and 2 from Chato District in Geita region.

4.10 Payment of Monthly running costs for MHOLA database, website and Toll free system.

Monthly and yearly running costs of MHOLA website and databased for Toll free system was a priority in order to keep services ongoing and have platform to publicize MHOLA activities and services. As reported above activeness of the system was not smooth on the call centre, but it was active on reporting section. Effort is on-going to stabilize the system. On the other hand, there is noticeable challenge on fundraising monthly subscription fee and maintenance of MHOLA Toll Free system. The amount was smoothly paid up to June, 2025 based on MHOLA internal sources of fund. The difficult arose due to finalization of the project prior supported this activity which ended in December, 2024, as such MHOLA has remained with duty to cover the costs until another source of income is secured.

4.11 Undertake networking and collaboration activities with government, like minded organization and development partners

This was another approach used to publicize MHOLA's services and implemented activities as well as keep connected with other stakeholders. The activities engaged includes joint implementation of 16 Days of activism as organized by the Bukoba and Muleba District Councils, participate on the Law day week organized by the Judiciary from Region to District level, Celebration of African child day and Provision of Legal Aid under Mama Samia Legal Aid Campaign in Kagera region organized by MOCLA. Also MHOLA participated on different events such roundtable discussion on public opinion regarding the Legal Aid services organized by MOCLA, Review meeting of ECD progress within Kagera region organized by Region Administrative Secretary (RAS), Voters education on Voters rights and registration procedures organized by the National Election Committee to mention just few. All these introduced MHOLA to new opportunities and her services was publicized through these forums.

Description of achievement of the objective:

To fully achieve this objective MHOLA need reliable and sustainable sources of fund to cover costs of all planned activities. As reported above only 35.4% of the total budget was raised. Majority of activities implemented are those supported by projects such as payment of staff salaries covered by projects and administrative costs and action or project activities. Activities intending to develop staff capacities and organization structures including publicity was not implemented as desired. To fully achieve the objective MHOLA requires to fundraise more and raise income which aim to reach more people in the community, especially in remoteness areas. The general observation is that currently MHOLA is known in township where branch offices are based and in some areas where paralegals being supported financially are active. The current situation threatened the sustainability of our interventions to the people we are entrusted to serve. On the other hand, we may end up losing experienced and committed staff/volunteers if the organization won't be able to pay them salaries/incentives including the mandatory benefits and. Therefore, more resource mobilization approach is of paramount importance.

5.0 BUDGET, FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND SOURCES OF FUND

MHOLA's budget within this financial year was approximately to **Tshs. 892,181,100** but only Tshs.315,721,859.39 was secured which is 35.4% of the target. Comparing the amount raised in the last financial year (2024), the level of fundraising is decreasing yearly. This negatively affect the achievement of the organization plan especially those intending to sustain MHOLA services. Based on the financial report MHOLA internal sources was only limited to 13% of the total fundraised amount. Therefore, if

the level of support from external sources will keep on decreasing therefore MHOLA sustainability is at risk. This is a working call for new strategy and planning.

6.0 SUCCESS STORIES/ENCOURAGING EXPERIENCE

Despite financial challenges yet we have good stories to tell: -

6.1 Increased **capacity of women to understand and defend their legal rights and those of their children:**

Through monitoring visit and evaluation exercise we observe growth among women and men toward appreciating gender equality. Inheritance cases is among the key indicator of success whereby in previous women and girls were not among the priority heirs, but currently it is not the case. Men allocate inheritance to girls and women as well. Also women and girls when they feel discriminated they stand up for their rights. We also observe slightly shift of culture allowing women to own land, unlike in the past when women were excluded from this right.

6.2 **Women empowerment economically, socially and politically.**

The nature of women we have currently differs from the previous generation. The current women generation are self-driven into different income generating activities, there no longer wait for their husband to provide for them basic needs for their families. On the other hand, they vie for political and community leadership position and deliver positively, hence increasing community trust and confidence on them. With this strategy women vulnerability will reduce making them powerful and strong, hence allowing them to utilize their potentials for their own good and community at large.

6.3 **Promotion of Early childhood development.**

In the past a child was less valued in the community. Their rights were violated and purposely ignored but currently with the aid of stakeholders' efforts, MHOLA inclusive and government laws and policies child rights are fairly treated. We currently observed government effort to protect child rights, many bylaws have been developed Parents/ Guardians who were reluctant to pay for school needs for their children are currently freely contributing. Both parents (Male and female) are closely following up their children's progress at school unlike in the past whereby the child issues were left for women.

7.0 LESSON LEARNED, CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 LESSON LEARNED

- 7.1.1 Donor funds is decreasing from time to time and also shift of the thematic area, therefore to be able to sustain MHOLA's work, engaging on IGA activities and strengthening digital legal aid service is inevitable.
- 7.1.2 Reduction of fund limit geographical coverage of services which also lead to limit visibility of MHOLA services to the community, therefore fund for awareness creation which capture many people at low costs and shorter time is recommended like the use of MHOLA Mia Mia Cup tournament.
- 7.1.3 Children especially in Primary school rarely receive education about their legal rights and how to protect themselves from attack or report incidents of violation due to education/school schedule, therefore more intervention should be planned in future during holiday.
- 7.1.4 MHOLA services are appreciated not only by beneficiaries, but also the government. In 2025 MHOLA received recognition certificate from the Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Elderly and children for implementation of sustainable projects.

7.2 CHALLENGES

- 7.2.1 **Absence of user-friend and conducive infrastructures to serve children with special needs.** This is among the priority request from the community and based on its sensitivity we also take it as priority in our plan to serve children with special needs. It is unfortunate that majority of development plans exclude them due to complicity and costs to run the services.
- 7.2.2 **Lack of reliable network and internet which challenged our effort to serve our target group through digital platform.** Our established Toll free service encounter several breakdown and within reporting period the call centre was not accessed from March. This diminish desire and trust of our target beneficiaries to continue using the system. On the other hand, lack of financial support and qualified technical staff fuel the problem since every time the breakdown happen we need to seek external consultancy which is also expensive and not promptly.
- 7.2.3 **Limited funds:** - The decrease of fund to support planned intervention not only limited the capacity to offer services to the target group, but also limit the growth and visibility of MHOLA Services.

8.0 OUR FUTURE PLANS AND STRATEGIES

Our key goal for accomplishment remain to be **Improve the protection and wellbeing for women and children**. To achieve the target both MHOLA and community have role to play. MHOLA plans to improve her interventions in number of ways to include the following: -

(a) Engage on IGA to increase the base of income from internal sources. This includes utilizing the available land by engaging on agriculture activities, and properly utilize the available assets and infrastructures. On the other hand, maintain the available development partners while securing new ones.

(b) Strengthening and sustaining digitalization legal aid systems with purpose of increasing access to legal services especially to the hard-to-reach areas. On the other hand, enhance staff capacity on digital platform.

(c) Finalization of construction of Physio-therapy building and purchase of physio-therapy equipment to set friendly environment for children with special needs.

(d) Improve Daycare services and set environment of upgrading MHOLA day care center to pre-primary and primary school to accommodate children with special needs who fail to proceed due to lack of facilities.

(e) Reach 3000 individual (2400 legal aid clients, 60 children (30% with special needs, 20 staff with capacity building, 300 women farmers and 220 women leaders) and 62,500 indirect people (60% being women) with intention to promote gender equality.

In order to achieve the above for the financial year 2025/2026 MHOLA will be required to raise the total sum of Tshs. 761,009,716/- (Euro 262,417.14 or USD 310,616.21). MHOLA invite you all to join efforts for the Wellbeing for women and children in Kagera region and nearby regions development. The support can be addressed in terms of cash, materials and human resources.

9.0 RECOMMENDATION & CONCLUSION

MHOLA values and generously thank the support from Austria government through (ADA, kfb, DKA and h3000), Threshold foundation and Anita Foundation of German, the Better Way Foundation(BWF) from USA. The government of Tanzania and the Community members in Kagera region, mainly in Muleba District where majority of our activities were implemented. We acknowledge and appreciate the financial support, positive recommendation to other financial opportunities, Expertise, time and guidance. MHOLA still believes on her future plans to facilitate the achievement of her vision. Therefore, we call upon you all to continue supporting the plans for interest of justice and women and child wellbeing.

10 MHOLA: BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Mamas' Hope Organization for Legal Assistance, famously MHOLA is the Non- Governmental Legal Aid Organization based in Tanzania. It was first registered on **30th October, 2006** and granted certificate of

Our Vision

A healthy society which is free from extreme poverty, gender violence and discrimination

Our Mission

To empower the community through creating awareness on right and health related issues, provision of legal and psychosocial assistance to women and children who have no access to that right.

Our Core Values

Integrity

Volunteerism

Teamwork

Professionalism

Confidentiality

Transparency

Accountability

Quality service

MHOLA GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

1. Annual General meeting
2. The Board (BM)
3. Executive Council
4. Secretariat

BOARD MEMBERS

1. Adv. Laurian Vedastus- Chairperson
2. Dr Andrew Mushi (PHD)- Member
3. Madam Leoncia Kabakama - Member
4. Mosg.Fr. Dr Pius Rutechura (PHD)- Member
5. Pastor Jackson Mushendwa- Member
6. Madam Erenestina Mpinzile- Member
7. Madam Adelina Kabakama - Member

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SAULO P. MALAURI

Organization departments

1. Administration and Finance department

2. Primary Health Care &Community based health Care department

4. Legal department

5. Monitoring and Evaluation department (Cross-cutting)

Organization area of works

1. Legal aid services

2. Promotion Early Child development and Increasing household income

3. Increasing House hold income