



**Country/Organisation:** Tanzania - Christian Education and Development Organization

**What are the primary challenges your country faces in ensuring equal access to justice within your criminal justice system? How do these challenges impact groups in vulnerable situation in your society? Please provide a thorough and detailed response.**

Child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse online is a primary challenge faced Tanzania in ensuring equal access to justice within the criminal justice system. Child sexual exploitation has far-reaching and devastating impacts on individual, families and community impacts

#### Individual impacts

1. Physical harm: - Victims are experienced sexually transmitted infects, unwanted pregnancies and other physical injuries.
2. Psychological trauma: - Child sexual exploited is lead to serve mental health issue such as depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress and disorder, low self-esteem, and substance abuse.
3. Education disruption: - Child Sexual exploited is negatively impact a child's education, leading to absenteeism, poor academic performance and dropping of school.

#### Family impact

1. Distrust and conflict: - Child sexual exploited is erode trust within families and lead to conflict between family members.
2. Stigma and blame: - Families are faced social stigma and blame for the abuse, further isolating them and victims.
3. Financial burden: - Families are incur financial costs associated with in medical treatment, counselling and legal support for victims.

#### Community impacts

1. Increased crime rates: - Child sexual exploitation is contributed to higher rates of crime including violence and drugs use, as victims are engaging in risky behaviours.
2. Weakened social fabric: - The prevalence of child sexual exploitation is undermining the trust and cohesion within communities

3. Economic loss: - Child sexual exploitation has a negative impact on a community's economy due to lost productivity and health costs.

Tanzania National study indicated that 28 percent of girls and 13 percent of boys suffered sexual violence, primarily in their homes. 73 percent of Tanzanian girls and 72 percent of Tanzanian boys have suffered physical abuse, most commonly in the form of being punched, lashed, or kicked, and the majority (60 percent) by a relative. One-fourth of Tanzanian children, including boys and girls, experienced various forms of emotional abuse (e.g., feeling unwanted, threatened, or abandoned). Similarly, three out of four children ages 2 to 14 are subjected to some form of violent treatment, more frequently psychological than physical. Three-quarters of children were subjected to psychological harassment, and around half were physically punished. Corporal punishment is lawful in Tanzania and regarded by many as a normal means of disciplining children. Although largely accepted as practice in Tanzania, there is specific evidence that this widespread phenomenon results in the opposite of what is intended, i.e. anti-social rather than pro-social behaviour. In the refugee context, children are more susceptible to child labour and the potential of trafficking to districts outside of the camps is exacerbated by limited economic and livelihoods opportunities in the camps that compel parents to push their children out of the camp for child labour.

Child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse online is caused by Limited awareness and knowledge on rights of women and children in social, economic and legal. Poor coordination on the issues of sexual violence against women and children among VAWC Committees at District, Wards and Village levels. The lack of a safe house contributes to victims losing their rights, losing evidence and sometimes cases of t sexual exploitation not being taken to court. Lack of legal service providers at the Ward and village level, contributing to the lack of legal services for victims of sexual exploitation.

**Can you provide examples of initiatives or policies that have been successful in addressing access to justice issues in your country? What key lessons have been learned from these initiatives or policies? Please provide a thorough and detailed response.**

The government has made efforts to end violence against children in Tanzania by developing a National Action Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children in Tanzania 2017/18-

2021/2022, which has been implemented by various development partners. The National Plan of Action on Violence Against Women and Children NPA-VAWC 2017/18 to 2021/22 achieved significant progress across eight thematic areas. The plan was designed to address the pressing need to combat violence against women and children and improve their well-being. The inclusion of the Inspire strategy, along with the domains of interventions, played a pivotal role in guiding and shaping these achievements. The first NPA-VAWC was initiated to address the critical issue of violence against women and children, aiming to create safer environments for them, at home, in public spaces and digital spaces in one consolidated plan. This comprehensive plan sought to empower individuals and communities, transform harmful norms and values, and enforce laws to protect women and children.

Lessons to learn about child abuse in Tanzania

Addressing child exploitation in Tanzania is a complex issue that requires a variety of approaches. Based on research and reports from various organizations working in the field, here are the key lessons we learned:

Understanding the basic reasons

**Poverty and Economic Factors:** A large part of child exploitation is driven by poverty. Addressing this requires sustainable economic development and poverty reduction programs.

**Cultural and social norms:** Rooted cultural practices and gender roles can contribute to the exploitation of children. Changing these principles requires community engagement and awareness campaigns.

**Weak governance and law enforcement:** Ineffective and corrupt law enforcement can hamper efforts to combat child exploitation. Strengthening these institutions is essential.

**What are the best practices currently being implemented in your criminal justice system to enhance access to legal aid and fair trials? How do these best practices improve outcomes for**

**individuals involved in the criminal justice system? Please provide a thorough and detailed response.**

Tanzania has been actively working to address the issue of child exploitation through a multi-faceted approach involving government agencies, NGOs, and international organizations. Some of the key strategies and best practices implemented include:

Legal Framework:

The Law of the Child Act (2009): This comprehensive legislation provides a strong foundation for child protection, outlining children's rights and prohibiting harmful practices such as child labor and sexual exploitation.

Ratification of international conventions: Tanzania is a party to major international treaties on child rights, demonstrating its commitment to addressing these issues at a global level.

Awareness and Prevention:

- Community-based programs: Various initiatives focus on raising awareness about child exploitation, educating communities about child rights, and empowering them to recognize and report cases of abuse.
- School-based programs: Schools play a crucial role in prevention by integrating child protection education into the curriculum and providing safe spaces for children to disclose abuse.
- Media campaigns: Mass media campaigns are used to disseminate information about child exploitation, encourage reporting, and promote positive attitudes towards children.

Law Enforcement and Justice:

- Specialized units: Dedicated police units and child protection desks have been established to investigate cases of child exploitation and provide support to victims.
- Victim-centered approach: Efforts are made to ensure that child victims are treated with sensitivity and dignity throughout the legal process.
- Prosecution and conviction: Tanzania has achieved some success in prosecuting perpetrators of child exploitation, sending a strong message of deterrence.

Support Services:

- Shelters and safe houses: These facilities provide temporary refuge and support services for children who have been victims of exploitation.
- Counselling and psychosocial support: Trained professionals offer counselling and therapy to help children recover from trauma and build resilience.
- Reintegration programs: These programs assist children in reintegrating into their families and communities, providing them with education, vocational training, and livelihood opportunities.

#### Collaboration and Partnerships:

- Multi-sectoral collaboration: Government agencies, NGOs, civil society organizations, and international partners work together to address child exploitation in a coordinated manner.
- Data sharing and information management: Effective data collection and analysis are essential for identifying trends, targeting interventions, and monitoring progress.
- Capacity building: Strengthening the capacity of professionals working in child protection is crucial for improving the response to child exploitation.

**What factors have been crucial in enabling successful reforms or improvements in your criminal justice system? How can these enabling factors be replicated or adapted in other contexts or regions to ensure equal access to justice for all? Please provide a thorough and detailed response.**

- Successful reform of a criminal justice system is a complex endeavor that requires a multifaceted approach. Several factors are crucial in enabling such improvements:
- Political Will and Leadership
- Strong leadership: A committed and visionary leadership is essential to drive reform efforts.
- Public support: A strong public mandate for reform can create political pressure for change.
- Interagency cooperation: Collaboration between different government agencies involved in the criminal justice system is crucial.

#### Data-Driven Decision Making

- Comprehensive data: Accurate and reliable data on crime rates, arrest rates, conviction rates, recidivism rates, and other relevant metrics is essential.
- Data analysis: Analyzing data to identify trends, patterns, and areas for improvement can inform policy decisions.

- Performance measurement: Establishing clear performance indicators to track progress and evaluate the effectiveness of reforms.

#### Investment in Human Capital

- Training and development: Providing adequate training to law enforcement, prosecutors, judges, and correctional officers is crucial.
- Recruitment and retention: Attracting and retaining qualified personnel is essential for a well-functioning criminal justice system.
- Mental health professionals: Investing in mental health professionals to address the needs of offenders and victims.

#### Community Engagement and Collaboration

- Community involvement: Engaging with communities affected by crime can help identify local needs and build trust.
- Partnerships: Collaborating with community organizations, NGOs, and other stakeholders can enhance the effectiveness of reforms.
- Restorative justice: Implementing restorative justice programs to address the harm caused by crime and promote healing.

#### Fairness and Equity

- Reducing disparities: Addressing racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic disparities in the criminal justice system.
- Due process: Ensuring that all individuals have access to due process and equal protection under the law.
- Alternative sentencing: Providing alternatives to incarceration for non-violent offenders.

#### Rehabilitation and Re-entry

- Effective rehabilitation programs: Offering programs that address the root causes of crime and prepare offenders for reintegration.
- Re-entry support services: Providing support to former inmates to help them reintegrate into society and reduce recidivism.
- Second chance opportunities: Expanding employment and educational opportunities for individuals with criminal records.

## Transparency and Accountability

- **Public access to information:** Providing the public with access to data and information about the criminal justice system.
- **Oversight mechanisms:** Establishing independent oversight bodies to monitor the system and ensure accountability.
- **Performance evaluation:** Regularly evaluating the performance of the criminal justice system and making necessary adjustments.

By addressing these factors, countries can work towards building more effective, equitable, and humane criminal justice systems