

The International Community of Women Living with HIV Eastern Africa (ICWEA)

Annual Narrative Report April 2014 – March 2015

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Acknowledgement

The International Community of Women living with HIV Eastern Africa (ICWEA) acknowledges the continuous support of its members, women living with HIV, the staff and board members. These people continuously and tirelessly work to ensure that priorities of women living with HIV are at the fore through advocacy and by challenging the unfavourable legal and policy environments. Most of this work is done in turmoil situations, with limited support and funding and many times as volunteers.

We are grateful for all the support and owe our work to our great partners and funders who believe in advocacy as a means to achieving universal access.

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1.0 Overview and Background

The International Community of Women Living with HIV Eastern Africa (ICWEA) is a registered regional advocacy network and membership based organization by and for Women living with HIV. Founded in 2005, ICWEA exists to give visibility to Women living with HIV and through promoting collective voices at all levels and to advocate for changes that improve our lives. ICWEA advocacy is based on the daily lived experiences of women living with HIV complimented by research often carried out by women living with HIV through participatory processes to address the priorities of women living with HIV including young women at all levels. Currently ICWEA operates in five countries of Eastern Africa namely; Burundi, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda and Uganda and in 2015-16 will extend operations in South Sudan.

ICWEA is governed by a regional board composed of eleven 11 women living with HIV from Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda (two representatives from each country one of which is a young woman living with HIV). The 11th member of the board is a representative of the Most at Risk populations (MARPS).

ICWEA's Secretariat is based in Uganda under the leadership of the Executive Director with 8 full time staff, One Country Coordinator based in Kenya, two Volunteers and two support staff. In addition ICWEA has formalised communication, accountability and decision making channels with its operations guided by a Constitution, a Regional Strategic plan (2014- 2018), Policies and Procedures.

Vision

Our vision is a world where all Women Living with HIV:

- Have a **respected and meaningful involvement** at all political levels; local, national, regional, and international, where decisions that affect our lives are being made;
- Have full **access to care and treatment services**; and
- Enjoy **full rights** particularly; sexual, reproductive, legal, financial and general health rights; irrespective of our culture, age, religion, sexuality, social or economic status/class and race.

Mission

A regional network, run by and for women living with HIV that promotes all our *voices* and *advocates* for changes that improve our lives

Core values

- Self-determination,
- Mutual Respect, Honesty, Integrity and Confidentiality
- Commitment to advocacy,
- Accountability,

- Self-determination.

2.0 Key Achievements for the Financial Year 2014/2015

Institutional Capacity and Organizational Development

2.1 ICWEA acquired a permanent home

During this financial year, ICWEA made the greatest achievement in its history by acquiring a permanent home, an office Block, located at Block 260, Plot 1106, Ssenge Road, Wakiso District – Uganda. This was made possible with financial support from NORAD. The official opening of the premises was presided over by the Chairperson of the Uganda AIDS Commission, with Stephen Lewis the former UN Special Envoy for HIV&AIDS as the motivational Speaker. In attendance also was the former President of Botswana, His Excellence Festus Gontebanye Mogae who hailed non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Uganda for their role in the fight against HIV.



ICWEA New Home

2.2 Strengthening National ICWEA Chapters

ICWEA continued to work towards strengthening of country level chapters. With Uganda, Kenya and Burundi legally registered, during this financial year, ICWEA supported ICW Tanzania and Rwanda to host National General Assemblies followed by development of constitutions and engaging the legal persons respectively who are technically supporting the country chapters to review their constitutions and register as legal entities. ICWEA was also able to contribute towards the salary for the Country Coordinator for ICW Kenya Chapter.

2.3 Capacity Building for the Membership, Staff and Board

The membership, staff and board's capacity and knowledge in different areas were enhanced during this reporting period. The areas included governance, advocacy, human Rights, gender, project management, filming and research methodologies.

Under the Sexual Reproductive Health Programme, a total of 36 Research Assistants were trained mainly composed of young Women living with HIV (aged 18 – 30 years) and undertook the research conducted during this year. In a five-day training, the Research Assistants were equipped with knowledge and skills in qualitative and quantitative research methodologies, data collection and documentation.

One staff undertook the Annual Training of Trainers (ToT) capacity building program by ARASA and as a step down training, trained 20 ICWEA members (young women living with HIV) in HIV and Human Rights. The training provided an opportunity for the participant to share their experiences of human rights violations while accessing HIV treatment and care from both the public and private health facilities. Additionally, the meeting enhanced the young women's knowledge about HIV & human rights. They developed and implemented a plan of action to address the emerging human rights issues. This increased their engagement and participation in Human rights promotion and protection.

“As a young woman living with HIV, this workshop was very relevant to me. I now know the circumstance in which I can standup and say that it is my right to receive every service even if I am HIV positive. Being HIV positive does not reap me of my rights it is just a condition that anyone can get,” expressed one participant

3.0 Fundraising/Resource Mobilization & influencing the funding mechanism in the region

During this reporting period, ICWEA continued to mobilize resources through different opportunities in order to take forward the priorities of women living with HIV including young women. Several proposals were written and submitted with some successful. The successful proposals and new funding was secured from Common Wealth Foundation and AIDS Legal Network. ICWEA continued receiving financial support from AVAC, NORAD, Robert Carr Network Fund, UNAIDS Uganda and Stop AIDS Now (SAN).

Priority setting for the Global Fund new funding model in Kenya and Uganda

ICWEA was able to influence the Global Fund (GF) Concept Note drafting in Uganda and Kenya by supporting meetings of women living with HIV to develop issue papers that were shared with the proposal writing teams to ensure that priorities of women living with HIV were included. ICWEA organized a consultative meeting for priority setting on Global Fund from the perspective of women living with HIV to feed into the country concept proposal in Uganda and Kenya. In Uganda, the meeting was held in September 2014 and was attended by 25 Women living with HIV in their diversities. In Kenya, the meeting was held in October 2014 and was attended by 30 Women living with HIV. In both, the country coordinating mechanism constituency representatives participated and gave an insight into the new funding model processes and the state at which each of the countries were. The issue papers can be accessed on www.icwea.org.

ICWEA advocated and worked hard to ensure that women living with HIV and members of ICWEA in Uganda and Kenya were elected to the Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM). At least two members of ICWEA in Kenya (ICW-K) and one in Uganda are members of the CCM. ICWEA in Uganda through the coalition on financing was able to lobby the CCM Secretariat and two of the coalition members including a woman living with HIV that is also a staff member of ICWEA to be part of the writing team for the Uganda Global Fund Concept Note. What remains to be done is to review and establish whether the priorities as submitted were included in the Concept Notes and whether these priorities will be prioritized during implementation.



A consultative meeting in Uganda

In a bid to mobilise resource for the ICW Kenya Chapter, the Kenya National Coordinator with support from the Executive Director worked closely with HIVOS to develop a Concept and a programme for three years to be presented to the donors during a Donor Forum to be hosted in July 2015. These discussions between HIVOS and ICW-K are ongoing and will be fast-tracked and extended to engage funding mechanisms like the Global Fund and PEPFAR.

4.0 Partnerships and Networking

This reporting period, ICWEA registered strengthened and increased partnerships and collaborations. Some of the new partners included AIDS & Rights Alliance for Southern Africa (ARASA), Common Wealth Foundation, Uganda Network on Law Ethics and HIV&AIDS (UGANET) and a wide range of Civil Society Organisations.

ICWEA continued sharing technical and financial knowledge, experience and skills with all ICW networks including ICW Global and the Regional Networks. ICWEA served as the fiscal agent and provided financial and technical support to ICW Global as the latter transitioned from Argentina to Kenya. In addition, ICWEA served as a lead agent for four ICW Regional Networks and ICW Global for the two Projects funded by Robert Carr Network Fund. The networks included ICW Global, Caribbean, North America, Southern Africa and West Africa.

5.0 Advocacy, representation and participation in key advocacy forums

ICWEA continued to champion advocacy for the rights of women living with HIV at all levels. This was done through different strategies that included engagement with the policy and key decision makers on programmes and policies that impact on the lives of women living with HIV, while challenging the unfavourable legal and policy environment.

ICWEA supported two members to attend and participate in the proceedings of the 47th CPD in New York in April 2014; two members to the International AIDS Conference in Melbourne – Australia in July 2014 and two people to attend the 58th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in New York, March 2015.

(ICWEA) has been coordinating and leading the CSO engagement and advocacy to shape the HIV funding and policy priorities of donors such as the U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through engaging in the Country Operation Plan processes, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria (GFATM) and advocacy for increased financing.

Challenging unfavourable legal and policy environments

During this financial year, ICWEA continued to advocate and challenge the Uganda Prevention and AIDS Control Bill which was unfortunately passed into law in July 2014. Despite the passing into law with all the contentious clauses that will negatively impact on women living with HIV and women in general, the HIV&AIDS response, the efforts and sustained advocacy by women living with HIV and Civil Society Organisation was visible and evident as the Health Committee of Parliament recommended for the deletion of all the contentious clauses that were unfortunately reinstated by the Plenary House of Parliament.

Some of the activities that were undertaken in the financial year included the following:

- Meetings with Members of Parliament and members of Uganda Women’s Parliamentary Association (UWOPA);
- Facilitating women living with HIV to attend the sessions while the Bill was being debated;
- Production and airing of two spot messages on Nation Television (NTV) featuring women living with HIV, calling upon members of Parliament not to pass the law in its form. The Executive Director also featured in a spot message by UGANET, showing the impact of the Bill on women if it was passed into law;
- Publication of a flier entitled, “***Women living with HIV in Uganda do not support criminalization***” signed off by all organisations and networks of women living with HIV in Uganda;
- With the passing of the HIV Prevention and AIDS Control Bill 2010 by the 9th Parliament of Uganda on 13th May 2014, ICWEA in partnership with UGANET convened a meeting of 30 HIV and SRHR Service providers with the aim of reflecting on the HIV Prevention & AIDS Management Bill that was then awaiting assent by the President; debating the possible implications of the contentious clauses of the Bill to

service delivery in case the President assented to it. The service providers issued a compelling statement stating the negative implications of the Bill to service delivery. This too unfortunately did not deter the president from assenting to the Bill hence making it law in July 2014;

It will be hard for the country to reduce the number of children being born with HIV to zero and to provide prevention, care and treatment services that are mostly needed to reduce the rising HIV incidence in the country. The problem is that some people including members of Parliament think that the Bill was designed for a certain category of people that needed to be “punished”.

Ms. Noerine Kaleeba founder, The AIDS Support Organization, (TASO)

- ICWEA held a strategizing meeting with a team of lawyers from human rights organizations, representatives of service providers, and networks of people living with HIV (all cohorts) and generated several strategies.
- On August 20th 2014, ICWEA held a press conference to inform the public of the President’s assent to the HIV Prevention & AIDS Control Bill in July 2014 with no public knowledge at all. The press conference’s aim too was to emphasize that the law was discriminatory in nature and would impact negatively on women and young girls and the HIV response in general. A press release to all our partners, UN Women, RCNF, Norad, SAN, HIVOS, ICW list-serve, and the ICWEA website and social network pages, Facebook friends the board was issued.

Challenging stigma and discrimination and upholding protection and promotion of the rights of Women living with HIV

ICWEA spearheaded advocacy for the protection and promotion of the rights of Rosemary Namubiru, the HIV positive nurse who was accused of exposure of HIV during the course of administering treatment to a child in January 2014. ICWEA challenged the discriminatory nature, torture, human rights violations against her which was purely based on her HIV status. Throughout the five months trial until her conviction on 19th May 2014, ICWEA stood by Rosemary both financially and psychologically. Some of the key actions undertaken by ICWEA during this reporting period included: mobilisation of resource to secure legal services and provide financial support while in prison.

One of the key outcomes of ICWEA’s advocacy was that Rosemary’s charge was changed from attempted murder which on conviction would provide for a maximum sentence of 10 year imprisonment to a negligent act likely to cause an infectious disease and her initial charge that we challenged in the high court was 3 years. The High Court acquitted later acquitted her on 28th November, 2014.

ICWEA engagement in Coerced and Forced sterilization in Nairobi July 2014

ICWEA has continued to engage in the work started in Kenya on coerced and forced sterilization. ICWEA facilitated the participation of over 100 Women living with HIV to attend the court session when the cases were being mentioned. ICW Kenya Chapter was one of the panelists during the Press Conference and the Executive Director was in attendance. ICWEA

will continue to support the community mobilisation and sensitization on the human rights violations and challenging the human rights violations.

Regional and Global Representation

ICWEA Participation in a forum organised by UNAIDS and Funders Concerned about AIDS

The SRH Project Officer represented ICW in a forum on “Sustaining HIV and Human Rights Programming in Challenging Contexts: Continued Criminalization of Key Populations and Shrinking Resources organised by UNAIDS in Geneva from 11th to 12th June 2014. More than 60 participants from across the donor spectrum, HIV and human rights donors, multilateral and bilateral donors, private foundations, publicly funded intermediary foundations, and community-driven collaborative funds attended. These included representatives from UNAIDS, Ford Foundation, the Global Fund, the Open Society Foundations, the Elton John AIDS Foundation and the Fund for Global Human Rights.

Participation in the East Africa Community Partner’s Forum 25th June, 2014

The Executive Director attended the EAC partner’s forum, a forum that brings together all partners working at the EAC community level, to share and learn from each other and plan together.

Representing women living with HIV on the Community Rights and Gender Advisory Group for Global Fund

During this year, the Executive Director was nominated as a member of the community, Rights and Gender Advisory Group for the Global fund and so far attended and participated in three virtual and two face-to face meetings.

International Civil Society Partner on the Conference Coordinating Committee (CCC) of the 21st International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2016)

ICWEA was invited as an International Civil Society partner on the Conference Coordinating Committee (CCC) of the 21st International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2016) to be held in Durban, South Africa. Since then the Executive Director has been attending meetings virtually.

Advocacy on Hormonal Contraceptives and HIV Risk

ICWEA serves as a global and regional convener, information source and advocacy voice for women on hormonal contraception and HIV. The purpose is to ensure that the voices and priorities of women and girls in all our diversities are not left out in the HC-HIV research and implementation agenda. A list serve composed of women advocates from all over has been established and is running. ICWEA continues to provide regular updates about the ECHO trial and all relevant information to the advocates. In addition, ICWEA and AVAC take lead in organizing webinars to provide updates on the Eco study and get views from the advocates to share with the research team

6.0 Research and Documentation

ICWEA's advocacy work is informed by the lived experiences of women living with HIV complemented by research by women living with HIV through participatory processes. During this financial year, ICWEA conducted the following researches:

- a) A rapid situation analysis of access to funding by organisations of women living with HIV, Gender and women human rights organisations in Uganda.
The study revealed that organizations of women living with HIV, gender and women's rights organizations are not adequately accessing funding. Although significant amounts of funds were mobilized and spent for HIV&AIDS response in Uganda over the years, increased funding nationally did not match with access by women organizations. The UN Family in Uganda committed to addressing some of the capacity gaps that were identified among groups and organisations of women living with HIV.
- b) Early Infant Diagnosis Research: ICWEA partnership with GNP+, ICW Global, ICW West Africa and ICW Southern Africa carried out a qualitative assessment on Early Infant Diagnosis (EID) in Kenya. The Assessment on the understanding of the perceptions, values, and preferences of women and mothers living with HIV, as well as caregivers of infants exposed to HIV, regarding early infant diagnosis practices was carried out in Kenya, Nigeria and Namibia. The report can be accessed on <http://www.iamicw.org>
- c) Research on Violation of Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights of Women living with HIV and AIDS in Clinical Settings in Uganda (On-going). The Research has a global advisory group made of women living with HIV from Kenya, South Africa and Namibia and a National Task force with representation from UNAIDS, Reproductive Health Department of the Ministry of Health, Irish AID representing AIDS Development Partners, UNFPA, Marie Stopes Uganda, Uganda Network on HIV, Ethics and Law (UGANET), Reproductive Health Uganda, Uganda AIDS Commission, Mamas Club representing the Networks of women Living with HIV – Mamas Club, Uganda Young Positives representing Networks of young people living with HIV and Uganda National Academy of Science (UNAS)/Research Academia Scientists and Professional Association (RAS).
- d) Monitoring the implementation of Elimination of Mother to Child Transmission (eMTCT) Program in Eastern Africa by Women Living with HIV (On-going).

7.0 Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights of Women living with HIV including young women

Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights is at the heart of ICWEA's work. During this reporting period, ICWEA working in conjunction with its membership and partners implemented a Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) Programme aimed at increasing participation of women living with HIV and holding to account policy and programmes of eMTCT to ensure that the

services are implemented within the human rights framework and that women living with HIV are at the centre.

The programme involves a study “Monitoring the Elimination of Mother to Child Transmission (eMTCT) Programme in four countries of Eastern Africa (Burundi, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda) by Women Living with HIV” which seeks to enhance knowledge and understanding of these gaps by carrying out an assessment of the quality of eMTCT/PMTCT services and programs for Women living with HIV. The study is being conducted by Women living with HIV themselves, taking into account the reflections of their needs and priorities in accessing the services. The study results are expected to be disseminated during The International Conference on HIV&AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections in Africa (ICASA 2015) in Zimbabwe. The results will further enhance ICWEA’s advocacy for better and quality eMTCT/PMTCT programmes and services for Women living with HIV.

Under the same programme, ICWEA in partnership with UGANET implemented a project aimed at **improving & increasing access to Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and eMTCT services for women living with HIV in four districts of Uganda** (Mukono, Wakiso, Kanungu and Ntungamo) through a gender transformative approach. The outcomes of the project were 20 peer educators trained and facilitated to do outreach programmes, 43 women Members of Parliament were reached, 650 people reached during the community dialogues and educated on eMTCT, 70 health care workers reached and educated on the importance of service delivery within the gender and human rights framework and 130 men oriented on their roles in eMTCT. 4,000 copies of each position paper on Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights and eMTCT were produced and distributed. Other activities that were implemented included building the capacity of five National Networks of Women living with HIV in Policy Analysis, Sexual Reproductive Health, Gender and Human Rights in the context of eMTCT;



Above is a training of peer educators. Below is a meeting with men on their engagement in eMTCT



The programme has led to increased visibility of ICWEA and women living with HIV and their role in eMTCT programme development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

In the districts where the implementation of the eMTCT programme was carried out, there were registered increases in number of women attending Antenatal Care, reduction in the number of children born with HIV and increased retention of HIV positive women in care.

ICWEA supported young women living with HIV to develop and implement an advocacy strategy and formed a mechanism through which to influence policies and decisions around their priorities and needs.

ICWEA is keenly following the ECHO Trial being conducted in South Africa, Zambia, Kenya and Swaziland. ICWEA participated in the calls and webinars which brought researchers and advocates together through which the research team made a brief. ICWEA also integrated sessions on HC and HIV link in activities that were funded by other partners in Tanzania and Burundi so as to mobilize more women to join the conversation around the HC and HIV relationship as well as the ECHO trial processes. In addition to this, ICWEA was represented at the ECHO trial meeting that was held at Wits University, Johannesburg on February 9th 2015, which brought together advocates, CSOs and researchers. An update on the trial process was made and the participants were informed that the confirmed sites for ECHO trial included South Africa – 12 sites; Zambia; Kenya and Swaziland with the three confirmed study arms including DMPA, Jadelle and Copper IUD.

8.0 ICWEA membership mobilisation and networking

During this reporting period ICWEA supported Women living with HIV in Burundi, Tanzania and Uganda to participate in national policy and advocacy platforms and notably these included World AIDS Day and World Tuberculosis Day respectively.

International Women's Day 2014

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ICWEA supported over 70 Women living with HIV in Burundi to join the rest of the world to mark the International Women's Day whose theme was, *"Inspiring Change"*.

The celebrations were held in Bujumbura in April 2014 with ICWEA's theme as *"Women Living with HIV Inspire Change! Fight for equality, dignity and fairness"*. The function was attended by over 70 Women living with HIV from Burundi and representatives from UNAIDS, UNICEF, MoH Department of Public Health and AIDS fighting, Ministry of Solidarity Human Rights and Gender, ITPC/CATACC – an organization working with other vulnerable communities, the Network of People living with HIV, The Cabinet of Lawyers and the Media. A Statement was issued calling upon the government and implementing partners to provide accurate Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) information to Women living with HIV, repealing discriminatory and criminalization laws as well as ensuring that human rights for Women living with HIV are upheld. It further emphasized the importance of prioritizing the needs of Women living with HIV in policy and programme planning and implementation. This statement can be accessed at ICWEA website www.icwea.org. It was distributed to the network membership and stakeholders through the different email list serves, social media networks and ICWEA website.

During the meeting, women living with HIV shared their lived experiences of experiencing violence at different levels, including family, community and work place, resulting into domestic violence, rape and defilement and loss of their homes.

"I had gone to access antenatal services when I was tested and found HIV positive. Since the day I disclosed the results to my husband, he beat me every night and used electric shocks to harm me till the day he chased me from our home. One night, he tried to kill but I escaped. He finally chased me and my children from our home and married another woman. Life became very difficult, I did not have anywhere to go, I had no job, my children dropped out of school and we did not have anything to eat. It was only the church goers who used to support me with few items including clothing and food. This man came and grabbed my children forcefully and took them away from me. I tried to seek for justice and legal redress in vain. I later realized that he had bribed the police and the judiciary which is why I was not helped. It is only after I joined the network of women living with HIV that I got the strength to move on with my life."



A member of ICW Burundi giving a testimony during the IWD Celebrations

In her statement, the President of Results Based Financing (RBF) recognized the high HIV prevalence among women at 52% in Burundi and the risk factors that make women more vulnerable to HIV including the social economic factors,

“Most are illiterate, and priority is given to boys/men in terms of economic opportunities. The second issue is polygamy; women do not have the skills to negotiate for safer sex.”

She called upon all Development Partners and the Government to support initiatives of women living with HIV. The UNAIDS representative commended ICWEA and Burundi Network of Women living with HIV for organizing and hosting the International Women’s Day celebrations in Burundi. He called upon the representative of the Cabinet of Lawyers to address stigma and violence against Women living with HIV. He acknowledged the fact that gender inequality in Burundi is a major issue fueling gender based violence.



Women living with HIV during and after the IWD celebrations in Bujumbura, Burundi

ICWEA Celebrating World TB Day in Uganda and Tanzania

ICWEA joined the rest of the world to commemorate World Tuberculosis Day. ICWEA supported 40 women living with HIV to attend the National Celebrations in Uganda held on the 25th March 2014.

ICWEA working in conjunction with Zanzibar Network of People living with HIV (ZAPHA+) organized and hosted the World Tuberculosis (TB) Day Celebrations in Zanzibar –Tanzania on the 10th April 2014. The activity aimed at highlighting the TB, TB/HIV situation, the challenges hindering accessibility and availability of TB/HIV services to women and women living with HIV. Approximately 100 people attended the event and they included representatives from the Ministry of Health, the Department of Tuberculosis, and Civil Society Organisation, Women living with HIV, Health Care Providers and the Community. The day's celebrations was blended with Women living with HIV sharing their testimonies and experiences of the TB infection while the drama group from ZAPHA+ presented a Skit on TB, TB/HIV challenges especially stigma and discrimination and importance of seeking health care.

A press statement (which can be accessed at www.icwea.org) was issued calling upon Policy Makers and TB programmers and Implementing Partners to find, treat and cure Women living with HIV in order to save 160,000 women dying of Tuberculosis every year.

ICWEA's theme was "Find Treat and Cure Women living with HIV needing TB care and Treatment and save 160,000 women dying of TB every year"

Women living with HIV acting a Skit





ICWEA Celebrating World AIDS Day 2014 in Burundi, Tanzania and Uganda

ICWEA supported the participation of Women living with HIV in Burundi, Tanzania and Uganda in World AIDS Day (WAD) commemorations. ICWEA supported four staff from the secretariat to travel to Tanzania and Burundi respectively (two staff per country). In Tanzania ICWEA staff joined three ICW Tanzania board members from Dar-salaam and Mwanza respectively to participate at the World AIDS Day 2014 commemoration at Saba Saba Ground in Njombe region and one ICW member from Zanzibar to attend the function in Pemba Region.



Mentorship programme for ICWEA members in Burundi and Tanzania

Mentorship training for ICWEA members in Burundi and Tanzania were held in November and December respectively bringing together 50 Women living with HIV.

National dialogue with women living with HIV

A dialogue meeting was held in Burundi in December 2015 bringing together a cross-section of 97 people including women living with HIV, men living HIV, community leaders, health care workers, legal representatives from the communal court of justice, representatives from the communal council, civil society organisations, religious leaders, the police and the media. The meeting discussed the HIV and human rights violations, stigma and discrimination,

The recommendations of the meeting were to create an enabling environment for women and girls free from discrimination and to disseminate information.

ICWEA takes 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence to Social media

ICWEA in November 2015 run a campaign dubbed "WLHIVSpeakOut" during the 16 days of Activism against GBV with a different theme each day. In total 18 messages were developed and disseminated through various medium (SMS, website, Facebook and Twitter). To make the campaign interactive and visually appealing to the online audience, we designed and used graphic images. These images were shared on the ICWEA website, Facebook and Twitter on a daily basis. On the ICWEA Website, a specific section for the 16 Days Campaign was designed (<http://www.icwea.org/topics/16-days-of-activism-against-gbv/>).