

policy forum
Breakfast debate on Situation of
Human Rights
in Tanzania: Elimination of Sexual
Violence against Women and Children



SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN TANZANIA: ELIMINATION OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Presenter Fundikila Wazambi | July 2021

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What are we
doing right? What
can we do better?



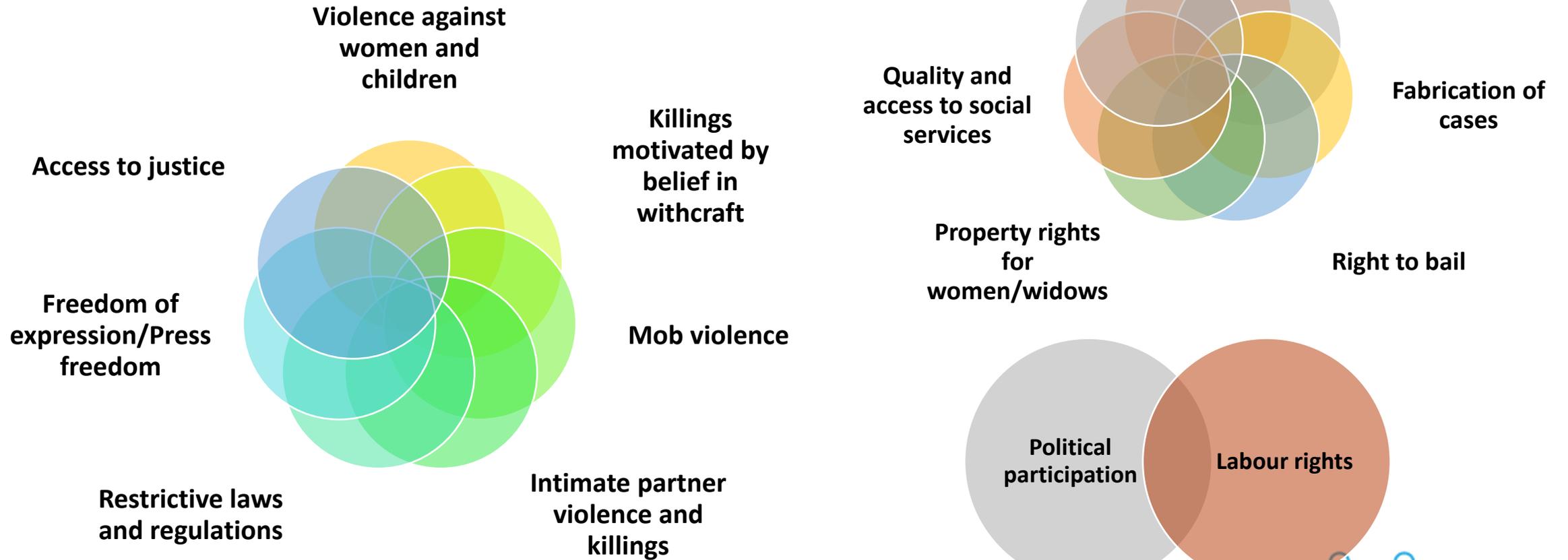
1. Introduction

 **Key Human Rights Issues in Tanzania**



1. Introduction

Key Human Rights Issues in Tanzania



5 most violated human rights

TANZANIA HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTS 2019-2021

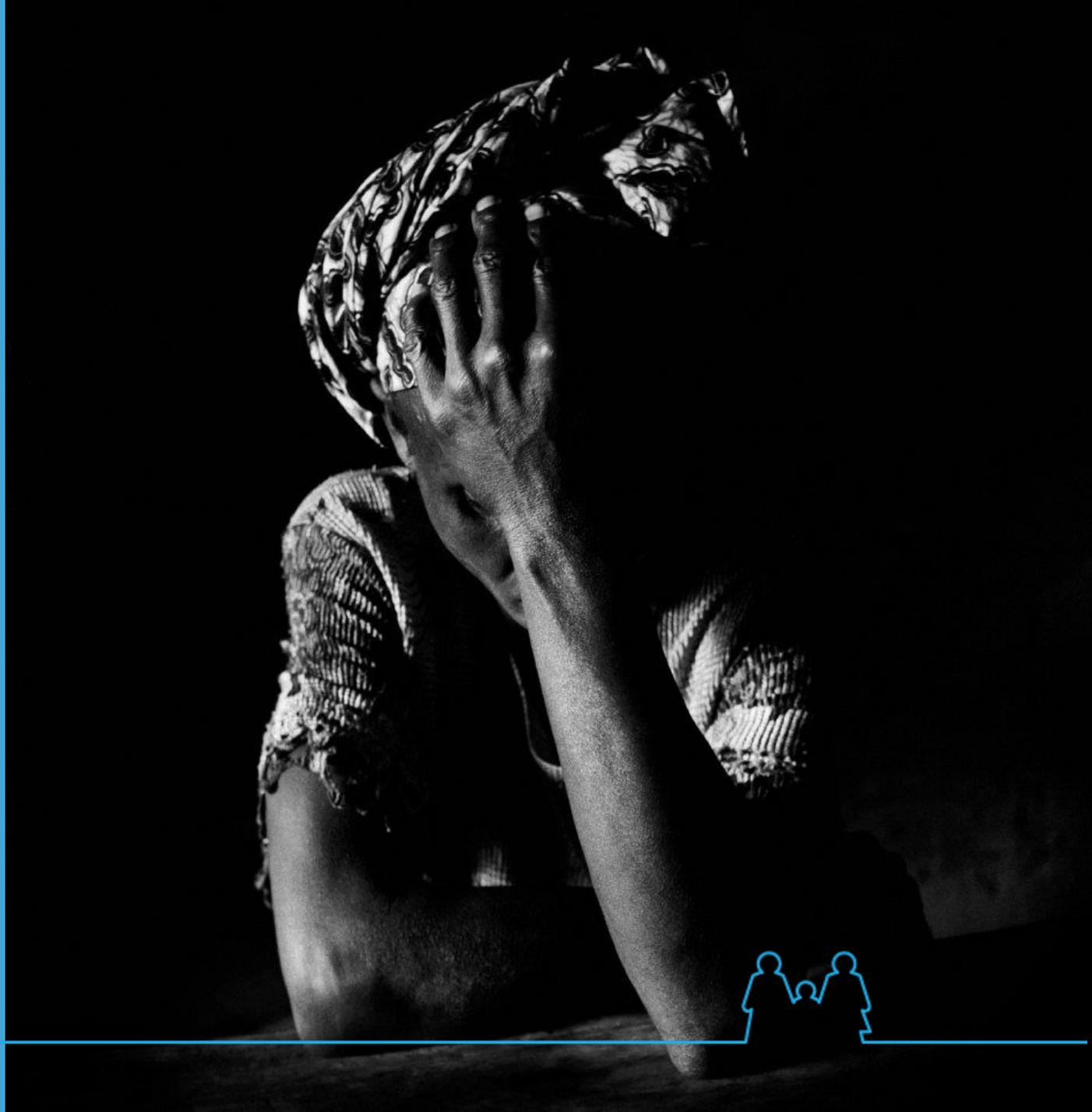
	1	2	3	4	5
2019	Right to Life.	Freedom from Violence.	Freedom of Expression.	Right to Liberty & Personal Security.	Freedom of Assembly & Association.
2020	Right to Life.	Freedom from Violence.	Freedom of Expression.	Right to Liberty & Personal Security.	Freeedoms of Assembly & Association.
2021	Right to Life.	Freedom from Violence.	Right to Equality before the Law.	Right to Liberty & Personal Security.	Freedom of Expression.

 **Freedom from violence the second most violated human right**



2. Violence against Women

 Forms & Incidents



Key issues include:

- Violence against women
- Violation of property and inheritance rights of widows
- Women's political participation
- Women's economic empowerment





VAWC

VAWC is a big challenge in Tanzania. It is a public health and human rights concern for a large number of women and children.



According to the Tanzania Demographic and Health Survey and Malaria Indicator Survey 2015-2016, 40% of women aged 15-49 have ever experienced physical violence, and 17% have ever experienced sexual violence.



Spousal violence is common among married women. 50% of all ever-married women have ever experienced spousal violence, most commonly physical violence (39%) and emotional violence (36%), while 14% have experienced sexual violence.





VAWC Situation



More than half of women (54%) who have experienced physical or sexual violence have sought help. Most women seek help from their families, while 9% seek help from the police.





VAWC Situation

Most incidents of VAWC remain unreported, despite an increase of reportage as a result of various VAWC interventions by government and non-government stakeholders.

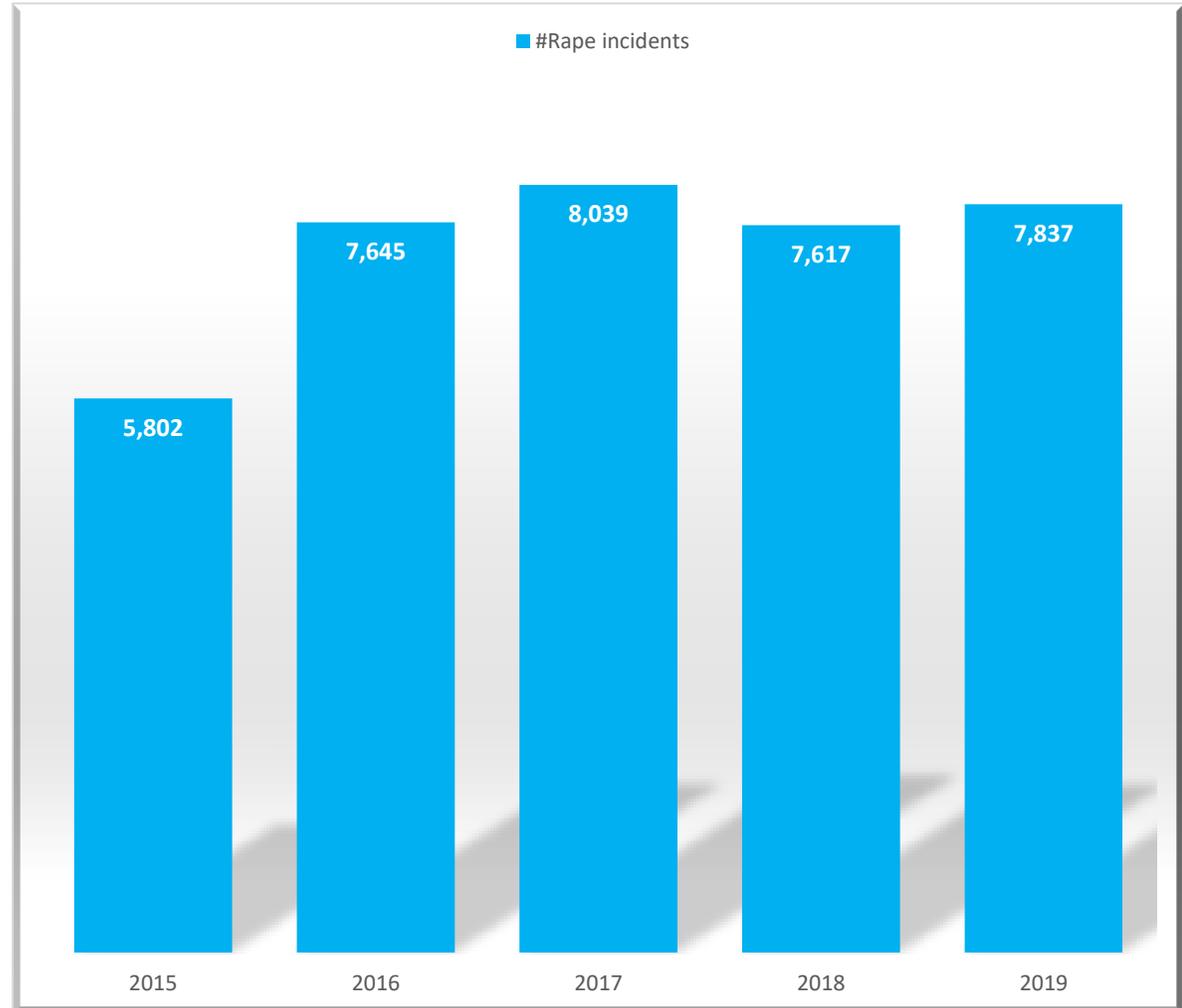
Rape represents the biggest VAWC threat to women and girls in Tanzania. Police data shows that a total of 5,802 rape incidents were reported in 2015, rising to 7,645 in 2016, to 8,039 in 2017.





VAWC Situation

#Rape incidents recorded b police 2015 - 2019
Source: Tanzania Police Force

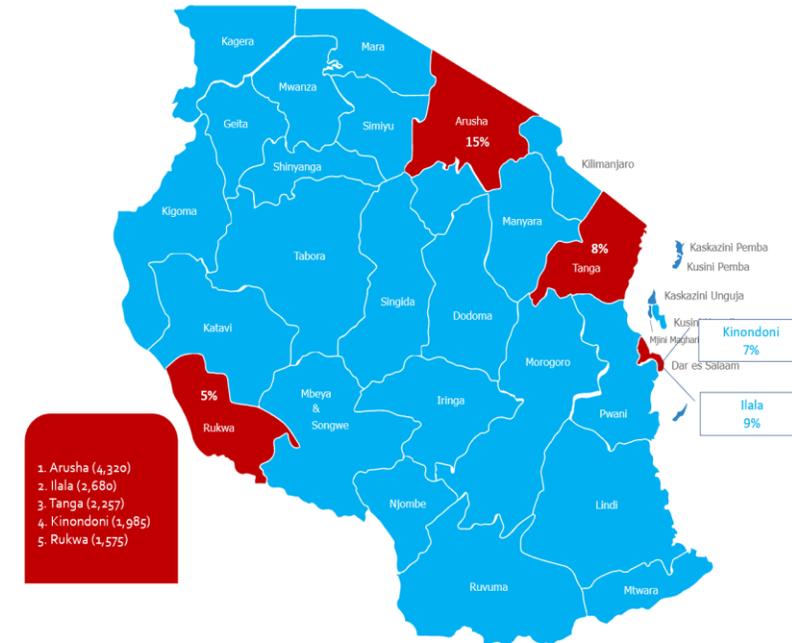




GBV still a big concern for women, who constituted the majority of victims in 2021 (female victims more than two times those of male victims).

- Statistics show a decrease of GBV incidents from 42,414 in 2020 to 29,373 in 2021, a decrease of 30.8%.
- 44% of GBV incidents documented by the Government in 2021 were recorded in Arusha, Ilala, Tanga, Kinondoni, and Rukwa police regions.
- Majority of community members (52%) perceive violence against women to be a serious problem in their community.
- Beating (domestic violence) and verbal abuse/humiliation were cited as most serious problems by over half of the respondents (both 54%)

Top Five Regions Leading in GBV Incidents 2021



Source: Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women, and Special Groups, 2022

	Region	#Times in top 5	Top 5 in 2021	Top 5 Rank
1	Arusha	5	Yes	1
2	Temeke	4	No	N/A
3	Kinondoni	3	Yes	4
4	Tanga	3	Yes	3
5	Dodoma	2	No	N/A

71%

Female victims of GBV in 2021



29%

Male victims of GBV in 2021



51 incidents of sexual violence documented by LHRC through human rights survey, human rights monitoring, and media survey, 19 less than those documented by LHRC in 2020.

- **Most of these incidents were of rape, reported in different regions, including Mwanza, Dar es Salaam, Lindi, Mara, Dodoma, Katavi, and Tanga.**

Rape incidents decreased from 7,263 in 2020 to 6,305 in 2021, equal to a decrease of 13.2%.

Sexual harassment was also identified as a common form of violence against women, including female journalists, perceived to be a problem by the majority of survey respondents.

Sexual corruption pervasive in media sector, job market, higher learning institutions, and when accessing services. LHRC documented at least four reported incidents of sexual corruption or sextortion, reported in 4 regions. However, most of such incidents go unreported, especially where the sex bribe has not been given.

Complaints about marital rape and sodomy.



Call:

- The Government to enact a GBV law to prevent and address GBV/domestic violence in line international human rights obligations.
- e.g. South Africa has Domestic Violence Act (1998) of South Africa, Sierra Leone they have the Domestic Violence Act (2007) of Sierra Leone, Namibia has the Combating of Domestic Violence Act (2003).

SOUTH AFRICAN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACT

116 OF 1998

LAW AND PSYCHOLOGY

Call:

- Increasing budget allocation for implementation of the next National Plan of Action to End Violence Against Women and Children in Tanzania

Coming to an end



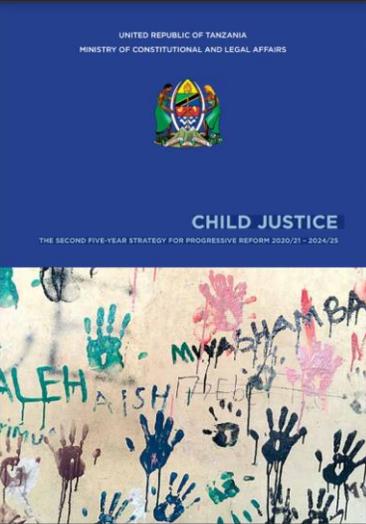
NATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION TO END
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND
CHILDREN IN TANZANIA
2017/18 – 2021/22



3. Violence against Children

 Forms & Incidents



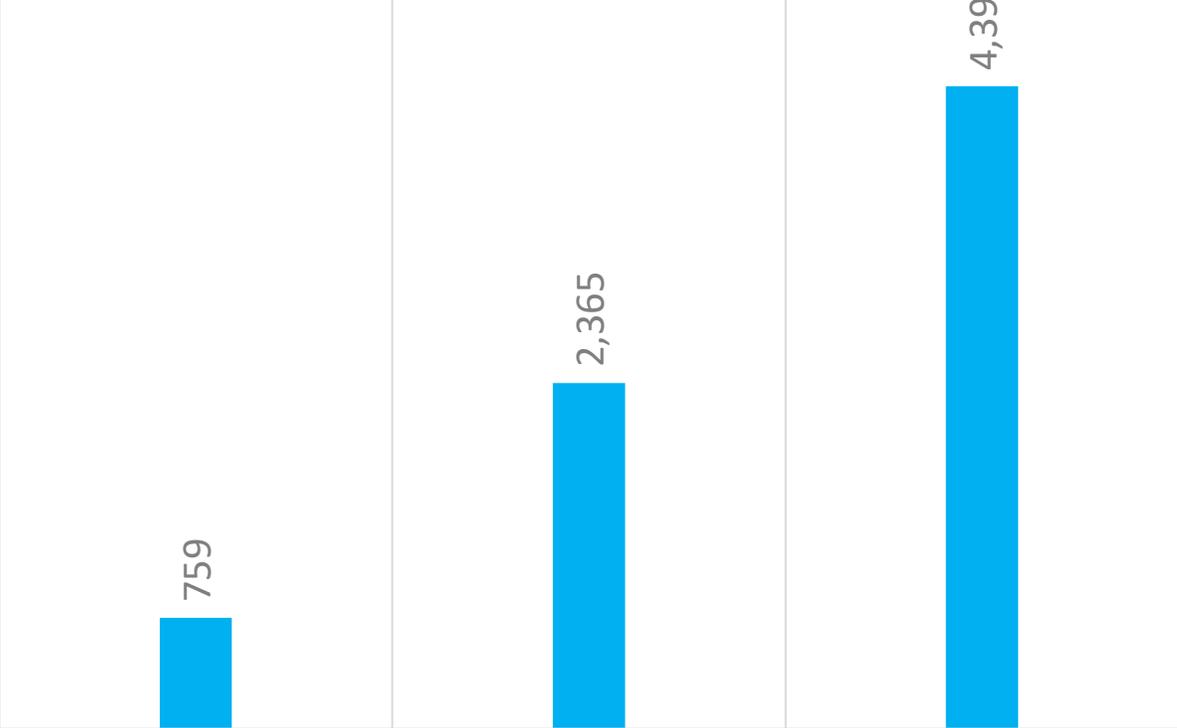


Key issues affecting children's rights included:

- sexual violence; physical and psychological violence; child labour and exploitation; child trafficking; child marriage; and child pregnancy.



CHILD RAPE & SODOMY



MID-2017

MID-2018

MID-2019

Source: Police Data



More than 150 incidents of violence against children documented by LHRC through human rights monitoring and media survey, majority of them sexual violence (rape and sodomy).

Incidents include alleged sodomy of 22 children by 'Madrassa' teacher in Arusha Region.

A 7-year-old sodomized and killed in Kilimanjaro Region.

A father accused of sexually abusing own children and impregnating one in Ruvuma.

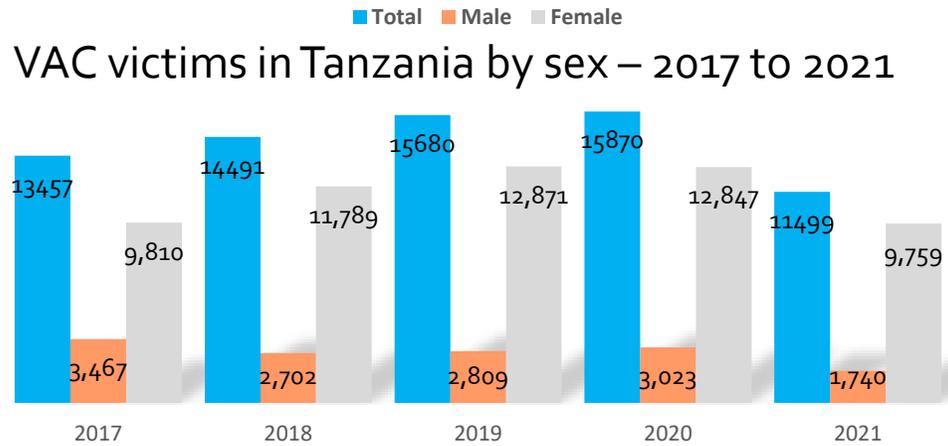
Withcraft belief/superstition a contributing factor – a man in Geita instructed to defile a six moth baby by a witchdoctor

Child marriages also contributing to sexual VAC

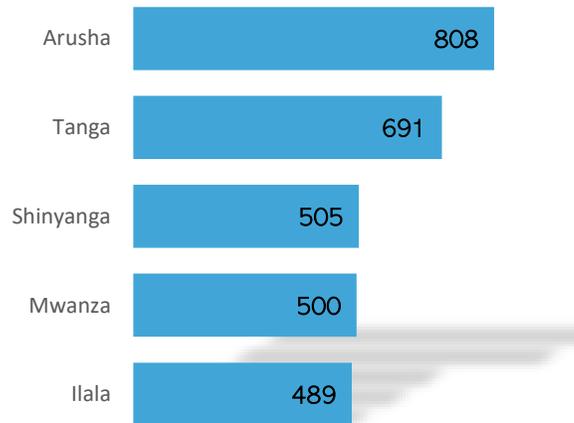
91 incidents of violence against women documented by LHRC through human rights monitoring/media survey from January to June 2022, including of sexual violence and IPV

Sexual VAWC incidents documented by LHRC through monitoring/media survey usually constitute only a small fraction of those documented by police, around 10 to 20%.

VAC victims in Tanzania by sex – 2017 to 2021



Top 5 police regions for VAC in 2021



Government statistics for the year 2021 indicate that incidents of violence against children (VAC) decreased from 15,870 in 2020 to 11,499 in 2021, a decrease of 27.5%.

- Out of the 11,499 reported incidents, 85% involved female victims and the remaining 15% were male victims. **Over 60% of incidents were rape cases, approximately 13% sodomy cases.**
- 26% of the incidents recorded in Arusha, Tanga, Shinyanga, Mwanza, and Ilala Police Regions.

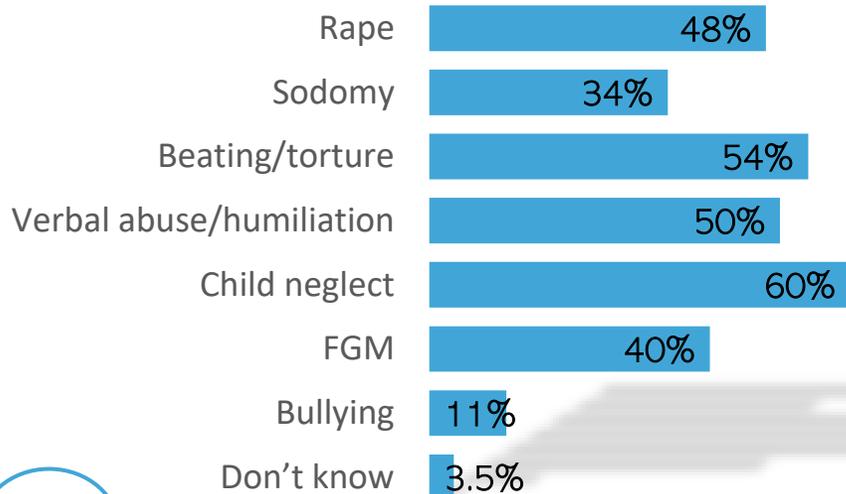
Over half of survey respondents (55%) said VAC is a serious problem in the community, followed by 37% who felt it is a moderate problem.

Sexual violence – the most common form of VAC, especially rape and sodomy.

Factors contributing to VAC include:

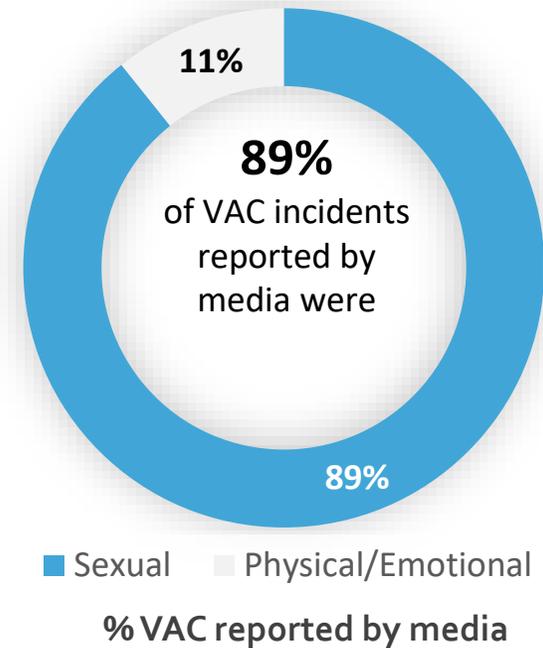
- lack of cooperation from the victim's family as they prefer to settle the matter at home 'as a family'; long distance from home to school; children being left alone at home (neglected); poor parenting; alcoholism; economic hardships; child marriage; parental separation; belief in superstition/witchcraft

Survey participants' perceptions on common forms or acts of VAC



"..there is a tendency of the victim's families resolving rape and other cases of sexual violence at home by receiving compensation in the form of cows, goats or money – usually around Tshs. 100,000 to 200,000. Up to five cows can be given as compensation. At his point, the victim's families end cooperation with the police/prosecution."

VEO, Kilosa - Morogoro



Sexual violence (rape & sodomy) – the most common form of VAC the biggest threat to children's rights.

- Victims of sexual VAC included children as young as 3 years of age.
- Survey found people close to children to be the major perpetrators of sexual VAC, including family relatives, uncles, stepfathers and fathers, *bodaboda* drivers and teachers
- In extreme cases, one girl (14 years) in Katavi was gang-raped and sodomized, while other three girls, aged 5, 14, and 6 were raped and killed in Manyara, Mara, and Mbeya Regions respectively.

Boys are also vulnerable to sexual abuse, especially in the form of sodomy.

- In 2021, LHRC documented at least 14 incidents of sodomy of boys

Child on child sexual violence also reported in 2021, LHRC documented at least 12 incidents

Girls targeted for commercial sexual exploitation, e.g. Morogoro & Dar es Salaam



Online child abuse was also found to be a key concern for children's online safety in 2021.



A study by End Child Sexual Exploitation (ECPAT), the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL); and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), revealed that approximately 200,000 children were victims of grave instances of online sexual exploitation and abuse in Tanzania in 2021.

- 3% of internet-using children aged 12-17 surveyed were offered money or gifts to engage in sexual acts in person
- 2% of the surveyed children were offered money or gifts in exchange for sexual images;
- 3% were asked to share images and videos showing their private parts to others.





Child trafficki ng

- A threat to children's rights in 2021.
- Children mostly trafficked for labour and sex, with girls found to be more vulnerable to child trafficking.
- Children in the age category of 12-17 are the major victims, and girls account for 74% of them.
- 10 incidents of child trafficking documented by LHRC, reported in Dar es Salaam, Morogoro, Mbeya, Arusha, and Iringa Regions.
- Most of the human trafficking incidents reported were on child labour trafficking, child sex trafficking, and trafficking of PWDs, including children with disabilities (usually for begging).



Law of Marriage Act, 1971 remained unamended, more than two years since the decision of the Court of Appeal of Tanzania, calling for amendment of the law to abolish child marriage.

- However, the national report of Tanzania before the UPR Working Group revealed that the Government was in the process of reviewing the law.

37 incidents of child marriage documented by LHRC, two more than those documented in 2020.

- Incidents reported in regions such as Katavi, Shinyanga, Mara, Mtwara, Lindi, Kilimanjaro, Dodoma, Kigoma, and Rukwa. Most of the girls who were subjected to child marriage were in the age category of 13 to 16 years.
- Dowry was observed to be the biggest motivation for parents to force their children to get married and the main perpetrators in this regard were fathers.
- Youngest victim rescued from child marriage, was 11 years old.
- Nearly half of incidents (46%) reported in the Lake Zone (20%), especially in Mara Region, followed by the Western Zone, especially Katavi Region.
- Most of the perpetrators were arrested in connection with the incidents.



STOP Child Marriage!
Amend the law!



#MillardAyoUPDATES INADAIWA ALIPIGWA FIMBO UPDATES

ALIELAZIMISHWA KUOLEWA, AFA

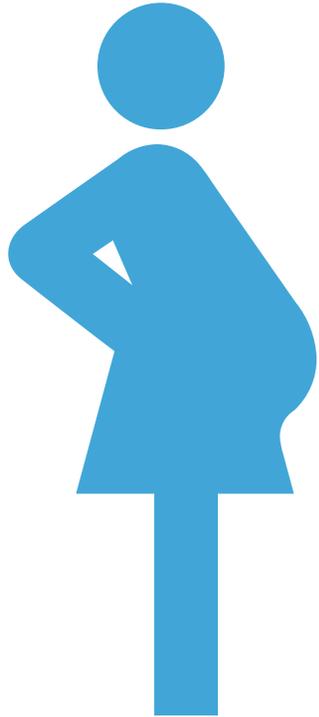
NEWS? Pakua APP ya 'millardayo' ...subscribe YouTube ya 'millardayo'

10,962 likes

millardayo Jeshi la Polisi Mkoani Kigoma linawashikilia Watu watatu akiwemo Baba mzazi Kulwa Juakali (40) Mkazi wa kijijicha Lufubu Wilaya ya Uvinza kwa tuhuma za kumpiga fimbo Mtoto wake Mbaru Juakali (17) hadi kusababisha kifo chake huku chanzo cha tukio hilo kikidaiwa kuwa ni kumlazimisha Mtoto huyo kuolewa chini ya umri kwa mahari ya ng'ombe 13 bila ridhaa yake.



Outlaw child marriage in the Law of Marriage Act of 1971 and set 18 years as minimum age for marriage as directed by the High Court



In 2021, incidents of child pregnancy, involving female children as young as 13 years, continued to be widely reported in different regions across Tanzania Mainland.

- LHRC documented at least 2,166 incidents of child pregnancy in the period of January to December 2021.
- Majority of these incidents were reported in Kigoma, Mwanza, Morogoro, and Shinyanga Regions.

Factors contributing to child pregnancy include:

- child neglect and abandonment; peer pressure; social media; parents using their children to generate income; lack of sexual and reproductive health education; lack of life skills; poverty/economic hardships; long distance to school; parental separation; FGM; poor parenting; and lack of self-awareness.



4. Addressing Violence against Women & Children

👤 **What are we doing right?**

👤 **What can we do better**



POSITIVES

- Criminalization of sexual violence e.g. Penal Code
- Judiciary action against perpetrators of sexual violence
- Fasttracking of sexual VAWC cases - guidelines
- NPA-VAWC
- Protection committees
- Police gender and children desks
- Law of the Child Act, 2009
- Public awareness by both government and non-government actors
- Capacity-building & child protection clubs in schools
- Recognition of police desk in PGOs & introduction of online sexual abuse booklets (UNICEF & ministry responsible)
- Child helpline – 116 (C-Sema) & school-based children councils
- Gender desks in higher learning institutions
- Re-entry policy/guidelines (pregnant schools back to school)



CONCERNS

- Budgeting for NPA-VAWC & coordination
- Capacity of women and children protection committees
- Children & women protection workforce – e.g. social welfare officers – number, budget e.t.c; shortage of justice actors (e.g. police & judicial officers/workers)
- Majority of perpetrators being relatives/family members [culture of ‘concealing shame’]
- Corruption
- Legal awareness
- Capacity & proximity of police desks & stations
- Parenting/neglect
- Withcraft-belief/superstition
- Law of Marriage Act, 1971
- GBV services – e.g. fit persons/families



An aerial photograph of a winding asphalt road with white dashed lines, curving through a dry, hilly landscape with sparse vegetation. The road starts from the bottom left and winds towards the top right. The right side of the image is partially obscured by a blue overlay.

We Can Get There!

**The Road to
Tanzania which is
Free from Sexual
Violence against
Women and
Children**