



Workshop Handout

Review of People with Disability Participation in Post 2015 General Elections

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Abbreviations

MKUKUTA	Mkakati wa Kukuza Uchumi na Kupambana na Umaskini
CCM	Chama cha Mapinduzi
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
DPOs	Disabled People’s Organizations
DPOs	Disabled People’s Organizations
EMBs	Election Management Bodies
LHRC	Legal and Human Rights Centre
NEC	National Electoral Commission
PNVR	Permanent National Voters’ Register
PWDs	Persons with Disabilities
SHIVYAWATA	Shirikisho la Vyama vya Watu wenye Ulemavu
SWAUTA	Sauti ya Wanawake Tanzania
TACEO	Tanzania Civil Society Consortium on Election Observation
URT	United Republic of Tanzania
ZEC	Zanzibar Electoral commission

1:0 Background, Problem Statement and Relevance

1.1 Background

Tanzania being a member of the United Nations has ratified key international human rights treaties including the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) that promotes *inter alia* the participation and inclusion of PWDs in the civil, political, economic, social and cultural spheres with equal opportunities. The CRPD also recognizes challenges that prevent PWDs to live independently and participate fully in all aspects of life. Some of the itemized challenges include: accessibility both environmental, information and communication, transportation participation in political and public life, etc. The fact that women and girls are subject to multiple discriminations is also acknowledged and emphasized by the CRPD.¹ This instrument therefore calls for State Parties to take all appropriate measures to ensure the full development, advancement and empowerment of all persons including women with disabilities for the purpose of guaranteeing them the exercise and enjoyment of the human rights and fundamental freedoms set out in the CRPD. The opportunity to enjoy political rights on an equal basis directly or through freely chosen representatives, including the right and opportunity for PWDs to vote and be elected are dictates underscored by various articles of the CRPD.

In the bid to implement the CRPD towards promotion of political rights of PWDs, the government of Tanzania in 2010 enacted the Persons with Disability Act No. 9 (2010) section 51 (1) and (2) of which state that; “Every person” with disability who has attained the age of eighteen years and above shall be entitled to enjoy and exercise political rights and opportunity as any other citizen without any form of discrimination” in terms of voting, holding a public office and otherwise participate in the political rights and opportunities as any other citizen without any form of discrimination”. Section 51 (3) of the referenced Act obliges the Minister responsible for PWDs to consult with other organs such the National Advisory Council on disability and Election Management Bodies (EMBs) to ensure compliance in this regard by responsible organs.

The Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania, 1977 (URT 1977 Constitution) and the Tanzania National Elections Act, 1985 (as amended 2010) recognize the rights of all other disability groups to vote or be voted except persons with mental disabilities. However, Article 67 (1) of the URT 1977 Constitution state that “An Act of Parliament may provide for the disqualification of any citizen from exercising the right to vote on any of the following grounds, namely (b) His suffering from mental infirmity. Nothing other than any of those grounds may operate to disqualify a person from exercising the right to vote” and Section 11 (b) of the Tanzania National Elections Act states that “a citizen can be disqualified to vote; if under any law in force in Tanzania, he is adjudged or otherwise declared to be of unsound mind.

¹ Article 6 (2) of the UN-CRPD of 2006: “States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure the full development, advancement and empowerment of women, for the purpose of guaranteeing them the exercise and enjoyment of the human rights and fundamental freedoms set out in the present Convention”

1.2 Problem Statement

Tanzania Poverty Reduction Strategy (*MKUKUTA II*) and other studies carried out in Tanzania also recognize the challenges PWDs face in terms of accessibility and social stigma hence, emphasizes on the need of having customized interventions to address social protection issues of PWDs and other marginalized groups that would improve their access to social services and contributing to economic growth and poverty reduction efforts. The project titled “Inclusive Elections” 2015 aimed at alleviating such barriers commonly encountered by PWDs during general elections. Specifically, challenges that have been identified by researchers include: i) Stigmatization that is tied with disability that has negatively affect the chance of the PWDs to be nominated or elected for public office. “PWDs are often regarded as dependants and less capable of ’tough’ responsibilities like being a leader”. There is a great deal of prejudice and negative attitudes against PWDs which make it very difficult for them to excel in political life, ii) Lack of supportive infrastructure to enable them to participate in the political sphere e.g. poor accessibility facilities, equipment and facilities e.g. tactile clues for visually impaired people, iii) Lack of safety and security to the PWDs is one of the hindrances largely due to a series of Albino killings taking place in Tanzania, iv) Unlike women and youth, there are very few PWDs as elected leaders who can act as role models and mentors and therefore, encourage other PWDs to participate and voters to vote for them and v) Serious lack of systematic data on PWDs which limit the effectiveness of interventions as well monitoring and evaluations².

1.3 Relevance

It has been established that during the 2015 general elections, PWDs to the tune of 1 million were of adult age, hence eligible for voting and standing for public offices. Given the envisaged barriers that have been hindering PWDs from enjoying their political right SHIVYAWATA with support from the United Nations Gender Entity for Women’s Rights and Gender Equality (UN Women) designed and implemented a project that aimed at addressing some of the challenges. The Project was titled “Support People with Disabilities’ Participation in Political and Electoral Process in Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar” and aimed at strengthening capacities of National Electoral Commissions (NEC) and Zanzibar Electoral Commission (ZEC) officials, media practitioners and PWD leaders on political leadership of PWDs.

it was a prudent measure to come up and implement a project that could significantly illuminate and attempt to alleviate such stumbling blocks of attitudinal, environmental and institutional nature.

Apart from the introductory part, this presentation entails five sections namely: approach and methodology, findings, successes, challenges, recommendations and conclusion. The essence of this presentation is to spur participants to reflect on recently concluded 2015 general election and assess how inclusive it was by giving evidences of what made it so or otherwise and char out the way forward.

² A study by Prof. Bernadetha Killian, commissioned by UN Women in 2014, key challenges that prevent PWDs from participating effectively in political and electoral process.

2:0 Objective and expected outcome

2.1 General Objective

The project's overall objective is to promote inclusion and equality of opportunity of people with disability in electoral processes as voters and candidates.

2.2 Specific Objectives

The specific objectives of this project targeted three major areas of intervention as follows;

- i) To sensitize and dialogue with NEC and ZEC to raise their awareness on the key challenges affecting PWDs participation in electoral processes and propose appropriate measures to be taken to address those challenges to ensure inclusion and effective participation of PWDs in electoral processes.
- ii) To raise awareness of PWDs leaders in the selected regions on PWDs rights and opportunities to engage in democratic process including elections both as candidates and voters, This will facilitate mainstreaming of the acquired knowledge into their work including to encourage and mobilize their participation in the different electoral process, i.e. registration, contesting, campaigns, voting, etc.
- iii) To sensitize and raise awareness of the media practitioners on PWDs leadership, political rights, and challenges to facilitate availability of space in the media and sensitive reporting to reduce stigma and misconceptions.

3:0 Approach and Methodologies

In order to implement the project under consideration, agency (SHIVYAWATA) adopted a three pronged approach namely: holding dialogue with EMBs, organizing awareness raising campaigns for leaders of Disabled People's Organizations (DPOs) and the media as well as conducting post election assessment to established levels of successes and challenges.

3.1 Engaging EMBs,

The implementer organized sessions for dialogues and sensitization of respective commissioners and staff on envisaged key challenges likely to continue hindering the participation of different groups of PWDs in the electoral process. Given that general elections in URT are guided by two different legislations namely: the election act 1985 and the elections act of Zanzibar 1984, respectively, the targeted audiences were met in two different camps and dates. When it came to agreeing on action points to be implemented by EMBs: a tripartite i.e. SHIVYAWATA, NEC & ZEC reached a consensus on appropriate countermeasures to address identified barriers.

3.2 Raising Awareness among Leaders of DPOs and the Media

With regard to sensitization of leaders of DPO, the approach was to conduct training session at zonal level where participants were drawn from respective regions converged. Acquired knowledge was to be cascaded to potential voters with disabilities at lower levels in order to inspire them to come out as informed voters and contestants. PWDs were also expected to alert

electoral systems in situations where their political right was threatened deriving from ignored apparent barriers.

The media being knowledgeable of barriers that hinder PWDs from enjoying their political right of equal footing as other citizens were counted upon to be sounding boards for the constituency of people with disabilities by furthering awareness campaign beyond the constituency to the larger society as well as blow whistles when unaddressed barriers were identified.

3.3 Carrying out Post Election Assessment

This exercise involved SHIVYAWATA taking stock of how people with disabilities actually fared in various stages of the election ranging from registration, campaigns to voting and/or being voted for.

SHIVYAWATA conducted post election assessment regarding how PWDs fared in the exercise. This was accomplished by (i) administering questionnaire forms, whereby, appointed people visited the sample area and conducted interviews with leaders of DPOs; (ii) follow up of media reports; (iii) participation in different functions organized by NEC such assessing the newly introduced tactile ballot folder. The sample area included Dodoma, Manyara, Dar es Salaam, Mara, Tanga, Mwanza, Tabora, Iringa, Mtwara, Ruvuma and Shinyanga. While the sample area constituted of 11 regions (in Tanzania Mainland), the sample size was 362 for 2010 and 217 for 2015 general elections respectively.

4.0 Findings of the post-election assessment exercise

4.1 Findings of how things unfolded for the “Inclusive Project” and PWDs in general

a) Results of assessment in view of agreed action points between SHIVYAWATA and NEC are shown by the table below:

Table (i): Level of NEC’s Fulfillment of Agreed Action points

Agreed Action	What transpired on the ground on NEC’s initiative
Providing civic and voter’s education to PWDs.	-NEC attempted to provide general civic and voters’ education as well as approve training materials pertinent to this regard. Some DPOs got such an approval but had to solicit financial resources from other angles. This shortfall was underlined by 7% of the respondents.
Integrating issues of PWDs in all interventions of NEC & ZEC.	-NEC offered written guidelines to Presiding Officers on the use of tactile ballot folders which was on presidential candidacy only. Despite this effort, 10% of the respondents claimed to have failed to use the service due to lack of prior orientation on how to use it. Worse still 9% of respondents were concerned about lack of sign language interpretation services at polling stations.

<p>Conducting Community awareness programmes on barriers faced by PWDs in the democratic processes (through the media)</p>	<p>No evidence from the NEC side. But respondents to the tune of 11% registered dissatisfaction with the support they got at the polling station by responsible officials. Also there was high level of mistrusts between visually impaired voters and those who assisted them to cast votes.</p>
<p>Full engagement of PWDs in electoral observations</p>	<p>-NEC appointed two reps with disabilities one in the “Voters Education and Coordination Committee” and the other in the “Electoral Authorities and Electoral Process Committee”. But the appointment was done when the election process was almost wrapping up. As such the reps attended one meeting each.</p> <p>-54% of PWDs registered encountering numerous institutional barriers as listed in 4.2 (c) of this report.</p>
<p>Ensure accessibility of polling stations to PWDs</p>	<p>-Design and distribution of tactile ballot folders for voters with visual problems. However, most targeted users (10%) lacked required knowledge on how to use the same given that names of presidential candidates were not in Braille prints (Tanzania mainland). Also the instrument did not cover Parliamentary and Councillorship candidates.</p> <p>-PWDs same as the elderly, pregnant and lactating mothers had a priority to cast votes. However, 23% of respondents registered concerns with the accessibility of environments to and at polling stations as elaborated in 4.2 (c) below.</p>
<p>Initiation of sustainable programmes on general elections capacity building</p>	<p>No evidence</p>
<p>Provision of special IDs to PWDs</p>	<p>No evidence from NEC. But as far as respondents with disabilities were concerned, this was not done; as such, voters with invisible disabilities e.g. deafness, mental health problems, etc had to queue. In one scenario in Iringa, it was claimed that PWDs had to each pay 3,000/= as identification fee.</p>
<p>Stigma and discrimination against</p>	<p>No evidence as what steps did NEC take to this effect; but as for voters with disabilities to the tune of 4% underlined stigma and stereotyping as</p>

PWDs	one of the barriers they encountered.
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b) Other Experiences besides the above NEC commitments

The assessment exercise illuminated both positive and negative experiences by PWDs.

- On the positive note, the following are captured:
 - 94% of respondents registered in PNVR compared to 89% of 2010;
 - 87% of respondents voted in the 2015 elections as opposed to 85% of 2010;
 - 10 out of 35 PWDs (or 29%) who contested for various political positions in 2015 in the project area won Councillorship positions;
 - Five PWDs sponsored by different political parties especially the special seats' window made it to the Parliament;
- On the negative note, the following are among such experiences
 - 23% of respondents raised concern over inaccessibility of polling stations. Also the LHRC/TACEO 2015 election report concurs with this argument when it reveals that 70% of the total venues sampled for observation were not sufficiently accessible to PWDs. An evaluation meeting consisting of representation from the catchment area harangued on the same issue;
 - Involvement of PWDs by the NEC at all levels remained considerably low. Only 22% of respondents rated the involvement as high.
 - 7% of respondents were concern about the inadequacy of civic and voter's education prior to 2015 general elections;
 - 10% of respondents registered concern on the failure to use the tactile ballot folder an experience the implications of which were not only on the secrecy of their ballot but also the possibility of being cheated when they reverted to using assistants some of whom were not their confidants. Such a suspicion could holder water given the stiffness of the competition;
 - 9% of respondents raised the concern of lack of sign language interpretation at the polling stations which led to spoiling ballot papers unnecessarily;
 - 11% of respondents were concerned with the inadequacy of support that the election staff provided at the polling stations such guiding people with visual impairments on how to use tactile ballot folders, communication with deaf voters, etc;

4.2 Categories of barriers encountered by voters with disabilities

The challenges were categorized in three groups as follows:

- Attitudinal: which was experiences through prejudice, discrimination and use of derogative expressions against PWDs especially those who came in the fore to contest for public offices;

In Masasi constituency, a disabled candidate was labeled disability was labeled by a non-disabled fellow candidate as being unfit to lead fit people.

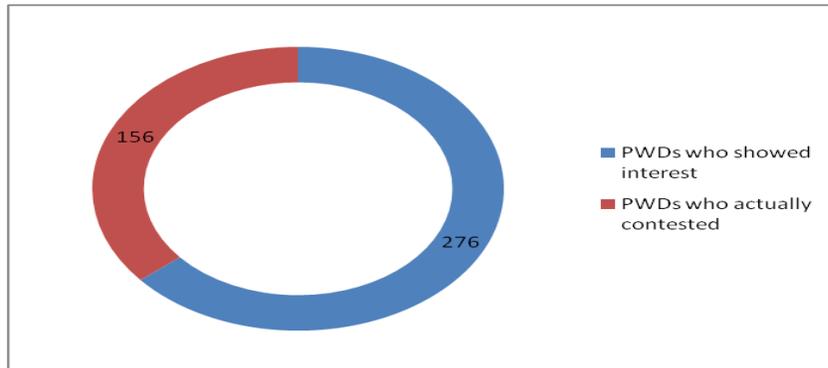
- Environmental: a situation where PWDs especially mobility and blindness failed or faced formidable difficulties in an attempt to participate in general election processes. Barriers of this type constituted encountering stumbling blocks such as distances between homes and polling stations, unsheltered polling stations exposing people with albinism to life threatening direct sun rays, rough and/or muddy roads, high door steps, narrow doorways as well as congestion that hinder maneuvering of wheelchairs, polling stations situated on hilly areas, voters with invisible disabilities forced to stand in queues (16% of respondents registered such an experience) and inaccessible campaign rallies and the way the voters register is mounted (at high heights) for voters to trace their names. Failure to access information such as lack of sign language interpretation services and publications transcribed in Braille or large prints were experienced as well. Eight percent of respondents with visual impairments registered a concern of mistrusting those who assisted them to cast votes and abrupt relocation of voters to distant or ghost polling stations;
- Institutional: situations where tactile ballot folders were provided without prior orientation on how to use them properly; insecurities based on political camps, lack of secrecy at polling stations for voters with visual impairments; lack of sign language interpretation services; unabated corruption practices in nomination of candidates and campaigning; communication hurdles especially for blind and deaf people; limited knowledge of handling disability challenges among election officials that led to lack of proper and reliable support services at polling stations; marginalization of women with disabilities in the nomination processes of respective political parties); printed election materials including manifestos of political parties illegible to those with visual impairments (use of small fonts); inadequacy of civic and voter's education to PWDs, hesitation of the NEC to consult and involve PWDs in decision making processes, forcing voters to cast votes at places where they were registered or transfer respective data to new places which is arduous, restriction of private candidacy, prevalence of high rates of illiteracy (especially among PWDs), denying people with mental health problems to the right to vote. (see appendix (i)).

5.0 A Glimpse on the Contestants' (with Disabilities) Profiles

Eligible PWDs like other citizens were encouraged to contest for leadership positions during recent general elections. Given that there was no categorical programme to groom potential contestants, PWDs with different backgrounds came out to contest. This section illuminates on the profiles of those who contested

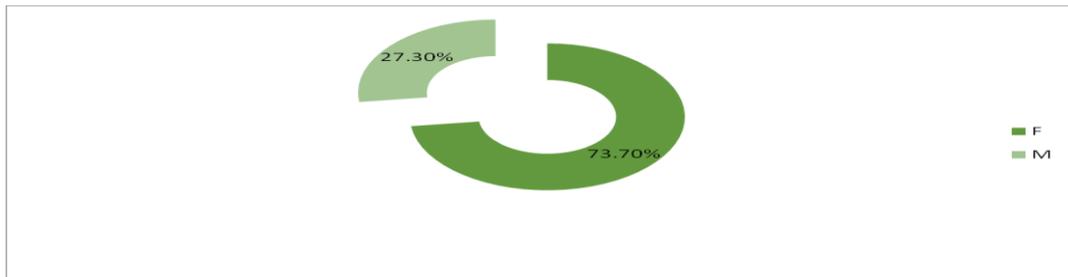
Illustration (i): PWDs who showed interest and those who actually stood for election (2015)

Illustration (i) below indicates that at some point before the general elections, 276 PWDs showed interest in standing for the 2015 general elections, but eventually, only 156 did come to contest. Another study may be worthwhile to establish reasons that made 126 PWDs to withdraw.



Source: SWAUTA database

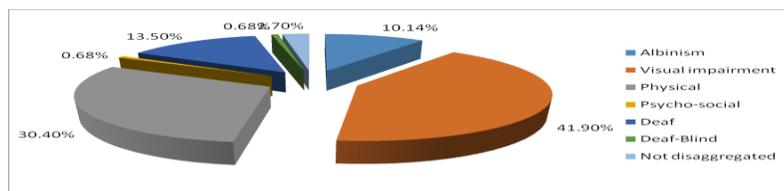
Illustration (ii)-Aspirants by Sex



Source: SWAUTA database

Illustration (ii) above indicated that in the 2015 general elections, more women with disabilities (73.7%) vied for representation positions as opposed to men who were 27.3%. As observed by workshop participants (May 31st 2016) high turnout for women is attributed to the fact that they have special considerations in the special seat window especially in Chama cha Mapinduzi (CCM). Furthermore, there were initiatives of grooming 77 of them to stand for elections.³ Data for the 2010 elections were not available for comparison purposes.

Illustration (iii)-Contestants by Disability Categories

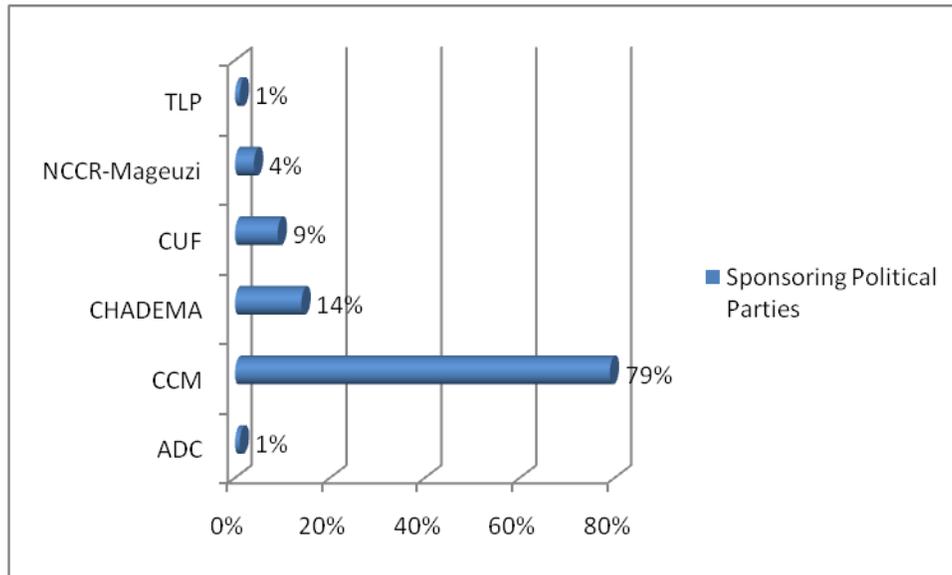


Source: SWAUTA database

³ TGNP, trainings conducted by TGNP, LHRC, Ulingo and TAMWA

Illustration (iii) above indicates that people with visual impaired were the most motivated contestants (42%) followed by those with physical impairments (30%). Such a situation was to be expected given that disaggregated data on disability prevalence in Tanzania (mainland) puts these two types of disabilities on lead i.e. difficulties in seeing 1.9% and difficulties in walking 1.2%.⁴

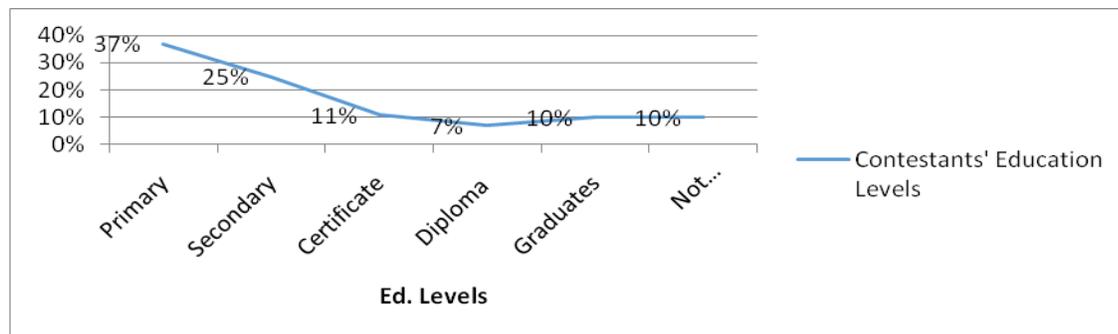
Illustration (iv)-Sponsoring Political Parties



Source: SWAUTA database

Illustration (iv) indicates that CCM took the lead in sponsoring contestants with disabilities (92%, followed by CHADEMA (14%, CUF (9%), NCCR-Mageuzi (4%) TLP 1% and ADC 1% respectively. As already indicated above, the Umoja wa Wanawake (an affiliate of CCM) has reserved slots for women with disabilities (special seats).

Illustration (v)-Contestants' Education Background

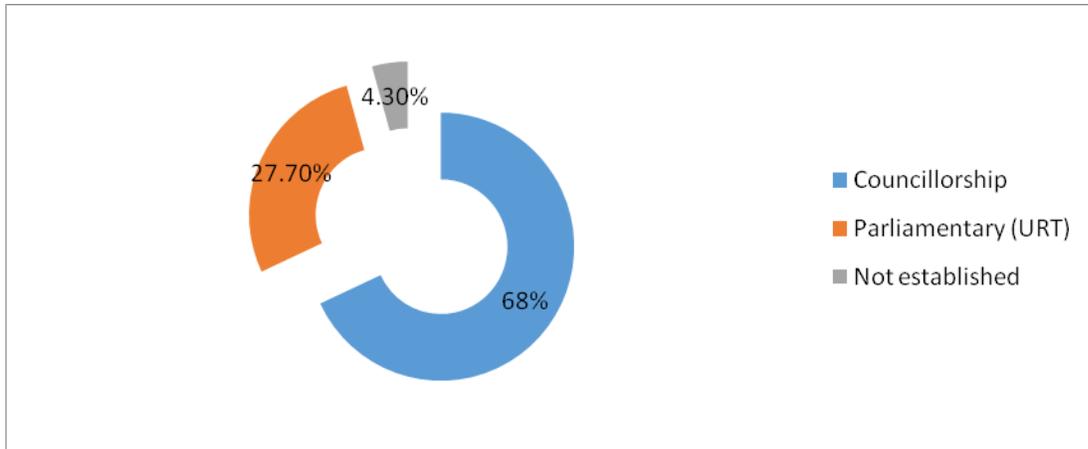


Source: SWAUTA database

⁴ URT, *Basic Demographic & Social Economic Profiles*, (2014) pg 28

Illustration (v) draws a very interesting picture by showing that 37% of all contestants with disabilities were of primary school education. These were not intimidated by their education level provided they met requirements of article 67 (a) of the constitution of the URT (1977) which states that any citizen who has attained the age of 21 years and can read and write Kiswahili or English is eligible to stand for parliamentary election.

Illustration (vi)- Vied Positions



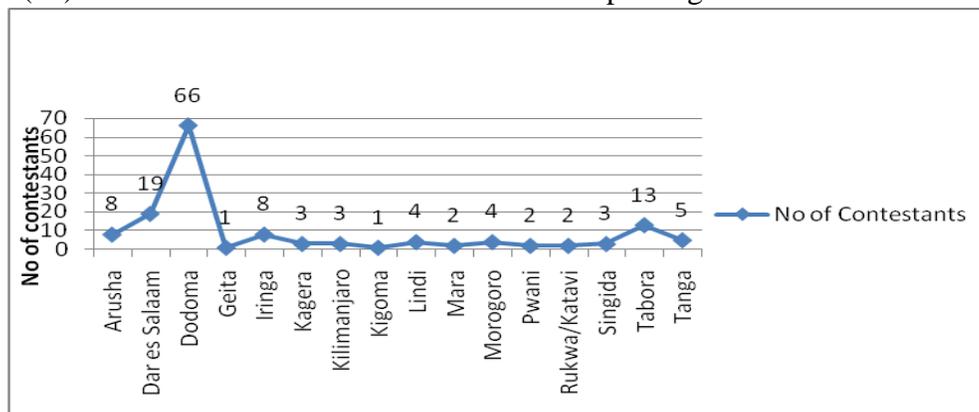
Source: SWAUTA database

Illustration (vi) indicates that most contestants with disabilities went for councillorship (68%). However, these figures do not separate special seats from constituency/ward contested seats.

Illustration (vii) below indicates that PWDs in the catchment area responded differently to the call to stand for elections. Dodoma was a region where the rate of response was very encouraging (66) followed by Dar es Salaam (19), Tabora (13) and Iringa and Arusha (8). The rest of the regions had contestants below eight. Another survey could be carried to establish what made PWDs in Dodoma to surpass other regions in the catchment area.

Illustration (vii): Number of PWDs who stood for Election per Region

6.0

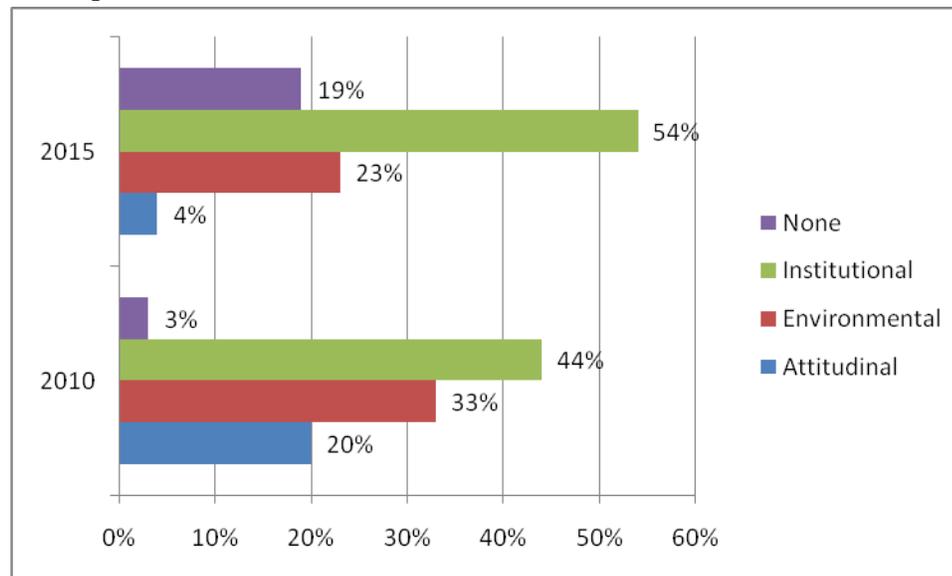


Source: SWAUTA database

General Comparison of Experiences between the 2010 and 2015 General Elections

In order to establish how PWDs in Tanzania have been faring in the democratic processes, an effort was made to compare data on encountered challenges of the last two succeeding general elections i.e. 2010 and 2015. Illustration (viii) below indicates the trend.

Illustration (viii)-Comparisons of Barriers Prevalence between 2010 and 2015 General Elections.



Source: SHIVYAWATA field data

Illustration (viii) above indicates notable statistical differences between 2010 and 2015 general elections as follows:

- attitudinal barriers declined from 20% (2010) to 4% (2015)
- environmental barriers declined from 33% of 2010 to 23% by 2015.

Same illustration paints a different picture by illuminating an increase in some barriers as follows:

- the percentage of those who did not experience any barriers increased from 3% (2010) to 19% (2015);
- the percentage of noted institutional barriers increased from 44% (2010) to 54% (2015).

Another study would be worthwhile to establish reasons behind the declines and increases of some barriers.

7.0 Successes and Challenges

As the “Inclusive Election” Project is winding up, stakeholders are looking back to establish what have been its successes and failure from which future interventions could drawn from.

7.1 Successes

- Maintained working relationship between SHIVYAWATA and NEC as a manifested by the action of giving PWDs a slot in NEC decision making levels. In August 2015 NEC appointed two members of SHIVYAWATA to represent PWDs in some of its committee’s i.e. one in “Voters Education and Coordination Committee” and another one

- in the Electoral Authorities and Electoral Process Committee. Also, NEC opened its doors for PWDs whenever a need for round table discussions arose;
- The tactile balloting system for blind and low people of vision was maintained and broadly distributed by NEC in the 2015 general election in Tanzania;
 - 71% of the Districts in the project area managed to organize environment for training by regional facilitators;
 - About 884 DPO leaders in 11 regions received trainings on political rights and participation. The fact that 10 out of 27 candidates (with disabilities) in the project were elected into Councillorship and one in Ukerewe District elected Vice Chair could be attributed to this intervention.
 - About 100 media practitioners received training on the right of PWDs to participate in political and public affairs. Consequently, the following were realized:
 - Mainstream and Community radios and TVs especially Radio One and ITV aired 68 programmes on the subject matter e.g. spots and documentaries, etc;
 - Nine interviews (ranging from three to thirty minutes) on the subject matter were conducted
 - Maintenance of the good practice of giving priority to PWDs during voting akin to international norms and standards where people from his group are saved queuing when looking for services;
 - While the above successes could be directly attributed to the project, always such interventions have spillovers from such interventions. Such spillovers led to:
 - Six PWDs i.e. four women with disabilities were elected as Members of Parliament through special seats and 1 gentleman won in his constituency and another gentleman appointed by the president of URT to be a Member of Parliament and Deputy Minister responsible for disability issues;
 - The President of URT appointed three PWDs to senior Government positions i.e. a Deputy Minister and two to position the Principal Secretary;

7.2 Challenges

- Voters with invisible disabilities such as hearing, mental and other such disabilities faced faces identification wrangles when they attempted to jump queues like other PWDs. Such instances deprived similar treatment as their counterparts with apparent disabilities;
- Tactile ballot folders:
 - Were only for presidential candidates whereas the general elections included parliamentary and councillorship candidacies.

- The issue of orienting people with visual impairment on the proper use of the tactile ballot folder has been given little weight since past general elections;
- Polling stations in rural areas had no such folders
- They were illegible
- To PWDs who are traditionally sidelined by social life, civic and voter's education is essential. Failure by the NEC to provide such a service as an affirmative action, is tantamount to abdication of responsibilities;
- Given that NEC does not have its own permanent human resource to oversee elections at lower levels, makes disability a new issue to recruits in every general election;
- The issue of accessibility of polling stations persisted despite the fact that it was among concerns raised in previous general elections;
- The issue of introducing a sustainable programme for PWDs regarding general elections interventions seems to have been left hanging;
- The well intentioned NEC opted to co-opt representative of PWDs to some of its committees at the last minute;
- Sign Language interpretation services during announcement of final result were not provided despite NEC's commitment to do the needful;
- Persons with disabilities faced a challenge when crosschecking their names due to low font size used and the way the PNVR is mounted at high heights.
- Many PWDs were not political party members which denied them the opportunity to contest.

8.0 Recommendations

The interpretation of the above data is that PWDs fared marginally in the 2015 general elections. In this view, complacency should be highly avoided if improvements are to be realized in future general elections. This is an opportune juncture for a reflection and charting out what to do differently as from now onwards in order to perform better in future similar circumstances. Below are some recommendations towards this end:

8.1 Recommendations to the NEC

8.1.1 Design a comprehensive strategy plan geared to the practical inclusion of on how to PWDs in election processes as it is required by the CRPD;

8.1.2 Accessibility of polling stations has cost implications. Research needs to be done well in advance on how to handle the matter cost effectively;

8.1.3 Enlightening NEC supporting personnel on disability issues should be done well in advance by engaging knowledgeable PWDs even if it means hiring external facilitators;

8.1.4 Access to information is basic for a voter to make informed decisions. Therefore to continue denying deaf, visually impaired and those with intellectual disabilities access to election related information is tantamount to disenfranchising them. IN view of the CRPD, earnest consideration (by NEC) on this aspect is inevitable.

8.1.5 Make arrangements in advance to have IDs ready for voters with disabilities so as to reduce unnecessary embarrassments to voters with invisible disabilities;

8.1.6 Given that every type of disability has its categorical requirements, NEC in collaboration with experts of disability issues should do a kind of disability needs mapping in order to make have them ready by the time of general elections.

8.2 *DPOS*

8.2.1 *Bargaining from a Common Front*

In the advent of general elections, PDWs need to fully apply the collaborative strategy by pooling resources and bargain from a common front in lobbying EMBs, political parties, CSOs and the media. For different groups (of PWDs) with different messages and at different dates to present their cases is a self defeat.

8.2.2 *Optimal use of networks*

As goes the saying, “there is always safety in numbers”. With this understanding DPOs could gain an extra millage through joining coalitions and making their presence felt there. As such, the spectrum of observing election processes from the disability lens could be expanded in a cost effect way.

8.2.3 *Proper Timing (Naming the moment)*

Election Processes are by far and large legal issues and therefore not easily tempered with. For PWDs to tilt election systems in their favour, timing is of essence i.e. applying long range strategies that give room for legal reforms by harmonizing respective laws with article 51 of the Persons with Disabilities Act no 9 (2010) and putting in place other requirements such accessibility considerations.

8.2.3 *Documentation of Experiences*

Evidence based advocacy is most effective in asserting for change. This being the case, DPOs should strive to establish and maintain rich repositories of how political issues are unfolding to their constituency for the purposes of analysis and substantiation of advocacy agendas.

8.2.4 *Improving the representation spectrum*

It is estimated that in the 2015 general elections, in terms of age PWDs the tune of 1 million were eligible voters and contestants. Therefore more efforts need to be exerted to have representation even in local governments where most PWDs live.

8.3 *Development Partners (DPs)*

- To fully observe article 32 of the CRPD on issues pertaining (among others) to promoting the participation of PWDs in the democratic processes in Tanzania.

9.0 Conclusion

Objectively, the winding up project intended to assert for the enfranchisement of PWDs in the 2015 general elections. As such it was titled “Support People with Disabilities’ Participation in Political and Electoral Process in Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar.” All PWDs were targeted; the issue of disabled women to participate in these processes was an ingrained aspect. This was kind of tripartite that involved EMBs, SHIVYAWATA as an implementing agency and leaders of DPOs/Media at regional levels. Round table discussions, training of trainers, training at zonal levels and assessment of achievements were key activities of the project.

As the project draws to the closing, it looks back with pride on the new relationships and developments particularly in the catchment area. The relationship between SHIVYAWATA and EMBs has improved, good practices such as the use of new technology of tactile balloting folders, appointing reps of PWDs to NEC Committees and giving priority to PWDs during voting have intensified, people with disabilities in the catchment area vying for leadership positions has increased significantly than any general elections in history, spillovers of the project led to the appointment of PWDs to Parliament and other very senior positions, a sub-portfolio on disability head by a person with a disability has been established, etc

On the part of challenges, issues of accessibility of the physical environment and information, civic and voter’s education, improvement of knowledge on disability among election officials, knowledge on how to use the tactile ballot folder conveniently are some of the key unfinished business. Therefore given recommendation revolve around addressing unfinished business as well as sustaining and improving gains.

It is unequivocally established that it fallacious for a given advocate intervention to claim credit for any realized social change. This takes into account the fact that many factors intended and unintended attribute to such a change. However, celebration of any change realized no matter how small is encouraged on grounds that influencing a sustainable social change is a demanding process that requires not only careful planning but unswerving commitment in asserting for the desired change. The following excerpt says it all:

“It’s the action, not the fruit of the action, that’s important. You have to do the right thing. It may not be in your power, may not be in your time, that there’ll be any fruit. But that doesn’t mean you stop doing the right thing. You may never know what results come from your action. But if you do nothing, there will be no result” (Mahatma Gandhi).

Appendix (i): The questionnaire used to collect field data

1. Kama kiongozi wa DPO je ulijitokeza kuomba nafasi ya kuchaguliwa katika uchaguzi mkuu uliopita (2015) kwenye wilaya yako?

- a) Ndiyo b) Hapana c.) Sikumbuki

2. Kama jibu ni ndiyo, Je ulifanikiwa?

- a) Ndiyo b) Hapana c) Sikumbuki

3. Kama jibu ni hapana je ni sababu gani zimekuzuia usishiriki

.....

4. Je wewe binafsi ulijiandikisha katika uchaguzi wa mwaka 2015?

- a) Ndiyo b) Hapana c) Sikumbuki

5. Toa sababu la jibu lako.....

6. Je ulishiriki kupiga kura katika uchaguzi wa mwaka 2015?

- a) Ndiyo b) Hapana c) Sikumbuki

7. Je ni kwa kiasi gani Tume ya uchaguzi iliwashirikisha watu wenye ulemavu katika shughuli za uchaguzi katika wilaya yako?

- a) Kwa kiasi kikubwa sana b) Kwa kiasi kidogo
 c. Haikushirikisha kabisa d) Sina hakika

8. Ni changamoto gani kubwa zilizoathiri ushiriki wako katika uchaguzi wa mwaka 2015?

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Appendix (ii): Experiences of Workshop Participants Regarding the 2015 General Elections

Contributions from the floor	Clarifications
(I) Directed to NEC	
Setting a special day for PWDs to vote during general elections disempowering in the sense that it limits chances for mingling, instead a parallel line for voters with disabilities was suggested	-A parallel line for PWDs is more feasible provided if the number of voters increases in this line the other of none-disabled has to be skipped for some time. -NEC insists that PWDs and itemized voters should

	not line up.
The law should articulate percentages of contestants with disabilities to be nominated by political parties during elections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Intra-Party nominations do not fall under NEC mandate. -NEC simply authenticates candidates' credentials and settles appeals of aggrieved candidates.
Failure to run civic and voter's education extensively due to constraints of resource	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The election law requires Although this is one of NEC's responsibilities it's full implementation is constrained by inadequacy of financial resources; -In preparations of the 2015 general elections, NEC was confronted by numerous challenges e.g. PNVR, referendum and elections.
<p><u>Tactile ballot Folders</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Were not available in rural areas -Unused folders for 2015 be used for demonstration purposes between now and 2020; -They were only for Presidential candidates -Illegible -Mistrusts of assistants have their own preferences (of contestants) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -NEC was not aware of these shortfalls -Orientation on how use the technology deserves a high priority -Improvements will be made in future elections -In the absence of tactile ballot papers, the law allows people who cannot cast votes by themselves to bring confidants along with them or choose an assistant randomly from those at polling station.
-Inaccessibility of polling stations given that some were located on hilly areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -NEC does not own building used for polling purposes. This makes it difficult to adapt them -The issue accessibility is emphasized in selecting public places to be used for polling purposes
ID for voters with disabilities is very essential for easy identification	-The idea is feasible though it was not implemented in 2015 elections
Inadequacy of disability knowledge among election officials at lower levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -This aspect has cost implication -NEC has no its own employees at the lower levels, this matter will be given more weight in future elections

PWDs to be co-opted in various NEC committees	-Some initiatives were taken including holding round table discussions with delegations of PWDs; appointing representatives of PWDs in some committees. -Improvements will be made in future
Condoning of corruption practices and profuse use money during general elections is hurdle to PWDs with fragile economic footing. This group needs to collaborate with anti corruption state organs and NEC.	Such instances should be directed to TCCB and the judiciary.
Inaccessibility of election related information to deaf, visually impaired and intellectually impaired people	To be addressed in future elections
Review of resource materials for civic and voter's education is arduous to DPOs interested in such projects	This another responsibility that ensures suitability of resource materials
NEC does not provide devices such as magnifiers to voters with low vision	NEC to take this into account in future elections
NEC to intervene when candidates with disabilities are attacked by their counterparts during campaigns	-The ethics committees established by the code of conduct at different levels are responsible to address such petitions. PWDs like any other candidate have to use this instrument when the need arises
The inaccessibility of the PNVR for cross checking (notice boards mounted at high heights)	
Preparations for general elections should start early enough	
Unpredictability of charges for nomination form requires that PWDS be given preferential considerations	
NEC to run a special strategic plan on disability.	

(II) Directed to Consultant	
Proposing a special day for PWDs to vote during general elections disempowering in the sense that it limits chances for mingling, instead a parallel line for voters with disabilities was suggested	A simple research needs to be done immediately by enquiring experiences from South Africa where this approach has been practices for some years now
Statistics in the report do not portray realities on the ground given that % are low	This was due to the nature field data was collected and treated. Every respondent was giving personal experience.
(III) Directed to SHVWT	
Zanzibar is not represented to the evaluation meeting	Zanzibar has a separate report premised on the fact that ZEC operates under the election act of Zanzibar (1984).
PWDs should demonstrate their leadership capacities in day to day social life as way of convince the public to elect them	
SHWT to motivate PWDs to contest in general elections	
The increase of number of contestants with disabilities in 2015 compared to 2010 is an encouraging sign in terms of self motivation resource constraints notwithstanding,	
PWDs to increase solidarity among themselves instead of attacking each other. An example was sighted where in 2015 general elections a group among women with disabilities ganged up against their colleagues Amina Morel and Ipula who had a better chance of being nominated.	
How prepared is SHWT in furthering what was gained in the 2015 general elections?	
NEC has to respond to SHWT assessment report	

